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ADVICE ON MANAGING
INFELD SKINS

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SPORTSFIELD AND FACILITIES

MANAGEMENT

April 2013

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On the cover: Mike Hebrard, president of Athletic Field Design, and his crew met the challenge of a short window to convert Alpenrose Stadium from a traditional and regulation little league baseball playing surface to a traditional and regulation softball playing surface, and back again. Photo by Darin Stout, Northwest Sports Photography, Beaverton, OR www.4nsp.com

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From the Sidelines



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Earth Day should mean something to us all

ACCORDING TO WIKIPEDIA, the genesis of Earth Day is credited to Gaylord Nelson, a US Senator from Wisconsin. After witnessing the ravages of the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill, and inspired by the student anti-war movement, he called for an environmental teach-in, or Earth Day, to be held on Wednesday, April 22, 1970. More than 20 million people participated that year, and now Earth Day is observed on April 22 each year by more than 500 million people and several national governments in 175 countries.

Kevin Trotta is the New York team captain of the Global Sports Alliance and president of Environmental Turf Craft, LLC. The GSA is a global network of sport enthusiasts that want to leave a healthy environment for our future generations. Kevin, an STMA member, asked me to share his Earth Day thoughts with you:

"In life as in sports, there are spectators and there are participants. We choose which role we play. Without question, the world would be a different and better place if more of us were players rather than onlookers. Earth Day calls us off the bench and into the game.

"As sports enthusiasts we bring a special vitality to our endeavors. Athletes, coaches, athletic field managers and others involved in the world of sports function at an enhanced energy level. It's an enthusiasm that sharpens our focus and performance. If we were to collectively direct this energy towards defending our environment the outcome would be world-changing. We have good reason to do so.

"Environmental quality exerts a direct influence on the quality of the sports experience. "Preparations for the Beijing Olympics of 2008 offered a world-stage example of the potentially devastating effects of compromised air quality on athletic competition. Recent history provides too many disturbing examples of cancelled aquatic events or sickened participants due to water pollution. Winter sports and recreation have been altered along with a changing climate. Environmental concerns have been raised regarding the methods and materials used in the management of sports facilities.

"Those of us who work and play outdoors are in direct and intimate contact with the environment. While competing, preparing fields, training or just exerting ourselves having fun outside, we are the environmental 'canaries in the mineshaft.' Clearly, we have a vested interest in these issues; for as the environment is compromised so is our well-being.

"Unfortunately, the average citizen remains uninvolved or unconvinced of the urgency to change our present course. We will not succeed in realizing our vision of sustainability on a planetary scale without engaging the general public. People from all walks of life must be made aware that the inefficient use of materials and energy, the fouling of air and water, the destruction of habitat and the loss of biodiversity threatens all life on earth; including our own.

"To implement change we need public will and political pressure. Earth Day affords an opportunity for the sports community to mobilize for stewardship. We can leverage the popularity and enthusiasm of sports to generate a passion for environmental action. We need to step up to the plate, exploit our influential platform and lead by example. We can demonstrate stewardship through our lifestyles and our work. We can recruit colleagues, teammates and friends to engage in clean up efforts, tree plantings and other proactive events in our communities. We can celebrate this extraordinary planet and work towards ensuring that the water our children drink is pure and the air they breathe is fresh and clean. A vested interest? You bet. We have many reasons to get involved. Clearly, every day is Earth Day." ■

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Stewards of the land whether we like it or not

I WRITE THIS MONTH'S MESSAGE as I return from speaking at the New England STMA (NESTMA) annual meeting in Providence, RI. This is a wonderful conference and exhibition and it sets a great example for the value of cooperation and collaboration among groups across state lines. I learned a great deal more about the regulatory challenges being faced by all turf managers across New England and how the industry has responded to these regulations by altering and adapting their management programs.

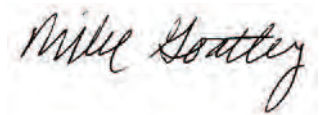
I particularly enjoyed one member's account that for the longest time he let his colleagues take the lead in trying to educate and communicate with state and local officials regarding proposed legislation that he thought was a nuisance, but it really did not affect him directly. Then one day some troubling legislation regarding fertilizers landed at his doorstep and he was forced to address a group of highly unsympathetic administrators and concerned citizens about his use of fertilizers on his sports fields. When I asked him how he felt after that meeting, he asked me if I was old enough to remember the movie "Network" (unfortunately, yes) and if so, then I knew from where the phrase "I am mad as *\$?! and I am not going to take it anymore" came.

How did he get involved? He told me that he first contacted his NESTMA colleagues and his state turfgrass extension specialist for their advice and then he started researching the matter on his own, taking advantage of one of our STMA membership benefits by accessing the Turfgrass Information File. I then jokingly accused him of being a NESTMA spy tasked with telling me everything that an academic and STMA board member would want to hear.

Did everything work out as he hoped? No. There are changes in how he must now manage his fields that are more time and labor consuming, and he probably won't have fields that are as aesthetically pleasing as they once were. However he has put these challenges to work in his management program, as he expanded his IPM approach to field management in ways that he had never considered before. He told me he felt that he now was a steward of the land more so than a manager, and I found it interesting that this philosophy matched up perfectly with the theme of a presentation delivered by long-time STMA member Kevin Trotta at this same meeting (see page 6 for more from Kevin).

Perhaps most importantly he now has a voice and a face in the community as more than "the guy that mows the fields"—his time in front of the public has exposed a whole new audience to his expertise and professionalism as a sports turf manager.

STMA's Environmental Committee has just released its Advocacy Manual that addresses all the steps you can take to get involved like my NESTMA friend. Be sure to take a look at this manual as I think you will find it to be another valuable membership benefit that will help you better address challenges as they arise. Take care, everyone. ■





Creating & managing expectations—the key to field use and maintenance planning

Editor's note: This article is based on a presentation at January's STMA Conference by Rebecca Auchter, manager of grounds maintenance, Cranberry Township, PA entitled "Athletic Field Use and Maintenance Planning." Thanks to Ms. Auchter for allowing us to use this material; more information can be found at the links listed below from www.cranberrytownship.org.

As many parks and recreation and K-12 school district turf managers know, the agendas of field users and administrators are often contrary to what is best for their fields. Rebecca Auchter, manager of grounds maintenance for Cranberry Township, PA told her audience at the Sports Turf Managers Association Conference in January that to combat this, they needed to create and manage others' expectations. Auchter said the path to

creating and managing expectations was to establish good relationships with key "influencers" such as administrators and spend time communicating with and training them, with a goal that eventually you will spend less time doing that and more time on agronomic practices. She reminded the audience that establishing rela-

tionships means "being nice" and "making friends."

"You have to get the 'owners' of the fields to buy in to what you want to do to protect your fields," she said. "The better your documentation and the more thorough your policies are, the faster you can get back to work."

Auchter said turf managers

need to teach, train, communicate, document and explain, not only to supervisors and other administrators but also to field users. She has put together three tools she uses to accomplish this: a Parks Maintenance Plan; an Athletic Field Use Policy; and an Athletic Field Maintenance Manual. "You can use these tools to answer a lot of questions so again, you can get back to work."

PARKS MAINTENANCE PLAN

"The Parks Maintenance Plan is general and comprehensive—what we have, where it is, what we do with it, and how to assess it," said Auchter. The plan is broken out into categories of maintenance (turfgrass, skins, trees/landscape, trails, etc.) and

"It's all about expectations!"

-Rebecca Auchter, Cranberry Twp. manager of grounds

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then detailed levels of maintenance for each category (though not to the level of products/rates). For example, a 75-acre park is divided into priority zones; zone 1 areas are “mow and go”; zone 2 areas are surrounds and common areas; zone 3 areas are non-irrigated fields that do get chemical treatments; and zone 4 areas are irrigated fields that have full programs of fertility and preventive fungicide.

This maintenance plan includes Maintenance Inspection Checklists labeled Athletic Fields: Game and Practice Field Playing Surfaces; Athletic Field Envelope; Playgrounds; Hard Surface Courts and Sand Volleyball; Shelters; Restroom and Concession Buildings; and Park Common Areas. Auchter said these checklists are used as assessment tools but also are valuable documentation in mitigating risk, as well as help her provide answers in meetings.

Auchter said she also uses Daily Task Sheets that include 17 categories to document how many hours are spent doing work in those categories every day. “This shows supervisors what we do and how much we do it,” she said.

“I have used these daily task sheets to show that consistently 35-40 percent of my time is spent NOT working on green-related tasks,” she said. “It is good to be able to show this since I am being judged on those green tasks.”

ATHLETIC FIELD MAINTENANCE MANUAL

Auchter describes the Athletic Field Maintenance Manual as a “training manual for our partner associations”—aka VOLUNTEERS. “Again, this manual creates and manages expectations,” she said. “This manual spells out how the Township expects users to treat and maintain our fields.” [See “Athletic Field Maintenance Manual” sidebar for details.]

ATHLETIC FIELD USE POLICY

This document was adopted by the Cranberry Township Board of Supervisors; Auchter described its content as “middle of the road-specific but not overly penal.” The township holds bi-annual meetings where users and township personnel get together to assess capital needs and introduce new policies, and perhaps most importantly, discuss field reservations and scheduling. “Get involved in scheduling up front,” she said, “because it will be to your great benefit. Spell out to users the most easily avoidable wear that any field gets; for example, no team needs to practice in soccer goal mouths.”

Another important aspect of the meetings is sharing information on how and when fields will be closed. Auchter manages this website for the township and said she posts field closings by 11 am weekdays, and by 9 pm the night before on weekends.

She said there are provisions in the policy manual for associations to overrule the closing if the weather improves, but that the onus on closing fields which deteriorate after an “open” posting falls on the associations as well. Moisture meters are available for the users to use when necessary to remain objective, Auchter said. As part of a Progressive Action Plan, the township will stop maintaining fields used by association groups that won’t work with township officials on these policies.

Auchter said to keep in mind that policies established should include rest and renovation periods, how it is determined whether fields are open or closed, and all scheduled closures, as well as time built in for general agronomic practices. [See “Athletic Field Use Policy” sidebar for details.] ■





Cranberry Township's Athletic Field Maintenance Manual

HERE IS A SAMPLE of some of the guidelines and Do's and Don'ts that are included in this manual, which details maintenance practices for volunteers from user groups:

BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL

A. DETERMINING FIELD PLAYABILITY

The decision to play on fields that are too wet is the number one cause of damage to ball fields and the top reason for player injury. And often, techniques used to make a wet field "playable" cause additional damage. Making the tough call to postpone a game due to wet conditions is the best decision for player safety and to preserve season-long playability of the ball fields.

B. WATER REMOVAL TECHNIQUES FOR SKINNED INFIELDS

The most important mistake to avoid is the removal or movement of infield mix. A level field will drain better and have fewer puddles. Low spots or depressions catch and hold water EVERY TIME!

Use a pump to remove puddles.

1. Dig a hole and place the field mix out of your way.
 2. Let the water drain into the low spot you've created.
 3. Use the pump to move the water into a bucket.
 4. Empty the bucket outside of the playing field into a drain.
 5. Replace the field mix into the hole and level with a rake.
- DO NOT Use These Methods on Wet Fields!
DO NOT use brooms to disperse puddles.
DO NOT sweep a puddle into the grass.
DO NOT remove muddy infield mix from the field.

All of these unfortunate techniques move infield material and leave a depression or low spot that will hold water every time it rains.

For small or shallow puddles, use a water absorbent pillow. 1. Allow the absorbent material to soak up the water. 2. Have a bucket nearby to wring out the pillow or sponge. 3. Empty the bucket of water off the field of play into a drain.

After the standing water has been removed, use a rake or nail drag to loosen the infield mix so it will dry more quickly. Allow time to air dry.

C. ADDITION OF FIELD DRYING AGENTS

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face, Pro's Choice, Diamond Pro, Rapid Dry, and Profile are the most common products used to assist with wet infield conditions. These products should be used judiciously for two reasons: they are an expense to the program and they change the properties of the infield mix when used abundantly.

Never use more than three bags of drying agent to make a field playable!

D. INFIELD GROOMING TECHNIQUES

1. Remove the bases and plug the base anchor sleeve before beginning any operations.
 2. Vary the dragging pattern every time the field is groomed.
 3. Scarify the field with a nail drag or needle tines.
 4. Finish groom the field with a drag mat or broom. Go slowly!
 5. When finished dragging, stop 5 to 6 feet before the edge of the skin and lift the drag. Shake any excess field mix off before exiting the field.
 6. Exit the field in a different location each time to prevent build-up of infield mix in one location.
 7. Hand rake out the pile left from the field drag.
 8. Hand rake: base paths end-to-end, home plate, and the back radius of the infield.
- DO NOT pull the nail drag or mat into the grass for any reason.
DO NOT take a nail drag or mat within 24" of the grass edge. Only hand rake edges to prevent lips from forming.
DO NOT take a nail drag over home plate.
DO NOT drive the nail drag or mat down base paths or around home plate on baseball diamonds with a grass infield.

E. SKINNED INFIELD LEVELING

Baseball and softball fields are designed with a specific slope to drain water from their surface. Underground drain pipes are virtually useless and rarely installed on ball fields. Keeping the infield slope correct will prevent puddling and therefore field closures. Players sliding, mechanical field groomers, and other factors contribute to un-level skinned infields. A diligent approach to correcting high or low spots is the most important task of a field manager.

For small areas, use a leveling rake. 1. Pull the material from a high spot and deposit it in a low area. 2. If the infield mix is dry, wet the leveled area and compact it with a tamper or the grooming machine tires. Otherwise, it will not stay in place.

For medium sized areas, use the leveling attachment of the grooming tool. 1. Remove the bases and plug the base anchor sleeve. 2. Loosen the field material with a nail drag or needle tines. 3. Make sure the leveler is NOT in the float position. 4. Make wide sweeping turns in several directions over the area that needs to be leveled. 5. If the infield mix is dry, water the area and compact it with the tires of the grooming machine. Otherwise, it will not stay in place.

For large areas or storm wash-outs, a box blade attachment works best. This should be coordinated with the Parks Department or outside contractor.

F. CLAY REPAIRS

Clay surfaces provide very solid, firm footing and better wear characteristics than regular infield mix for high wear areas like the pitching mound and batter's box. Making a clay repair is similar to

making a repair with regular infield mix. The biggest difference with clay is that it must NOT be contaminated with any regular infield mix. Pitching mounds and batter's boxes should be repaired every time they are used.

Techniques for Clay Repairs

1. Dig out and discard all loose material including infield mix, clay chunks, and field conditioners in and around the area to be repaired.
2. Sweep the area free of all minor bits of loose debris and place to the side.
3. Wet the existing clay with a flower watering can, hand held sprayer, or hose nozzle with a fine spray pattern.
4. Add new clay and compact in 2" layers. Working with clay can be tricky so follow these pointers:
 - a. The new clay must have enough moisture content to stick to the underlying clay base that has been moistened. Other wise, the new clay will pop out of place and create a hazard.
 - b. If the clay is too sticky, wrap the tamper plate in a garbage bag to alleviate the problem.
 - c. Shredded, bagged clay is very easy to work with and store. It is excellent for small daily repairs.
 - d. Unfired clay bricks are great for large scale renovations and can be purchased by the pallet. Long term storage is not practical for bricks.
5. Add approximately ½" of new field conditioner over the repaired clay area.

G. GRASS EDGE MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance where the skinned infield meets the grass edge will prevent the formation of a lip. After wet playing conditions, the most common player injury occurs from bad ball bounces. Lips are a major contributor to this type of player injury. Lips at the grass edge are also the primary barrier to water exiting the skinned part of the field. Water trapped on the skin will force cancellations and field closures.

Techniques for Maintaining the Grass-to-Skin Edge

A manual or motorized edger can be used as frequently as preferred to keep edges looking crisp.

Monthly edging is recommended.

Neatly rake all grass clippings out of the infield mix when edging is complete.

Sod should be purchased and installed if edges are significantly deteriorated.

Sod installation should only be under taken in the early spring or fall. Sod will usually require hand watering for the first year.

The Parks Department or an outside contractor should be contacted if sod installation is desired.

H. Field Lining Techniques

Only use "Athletic Field Marker" for foul lines and batter's boxes on skinned infields. DO NOT substitute lime or other white materials because they may be less expensive.

Only use marking paint that is specifically manufactured for turf. Always use a string as a guide line.

Only use athletic field marker on skinned infields for important events. Overuse without removal will contaminate the infield mix and cause undesirable results.

Sod installation should only be under taken in the early spring or fall.

Remember, the entire infield foul line should be UNDER first and third base.

SOCCER, FOOTBALL, LACROSSE

B. WATER REMOVAL TECHNIQUES FOR GRASS FIELDS

The most important mistake to avoid is the removal or movement of soil from the field. Fields are designed with a specific slope to drain water from their surface and low spots or depressions catch and hold water EVERY TIME!

Use a pump to remove big puddles.

1. Carefully remove the top layer of sod and set it aside.
 2. Dig a shallow hole and let the water drain into the low spot you've created.
 3. Use the pump to move the water into a bucket.
 4. Empty the bucket outside of the playing field.
 5. Replace all of the soil and compact with your shoe. Replace the sod.
- DO NOT Use These Methods on Wet Fields!
DO NOT use brooms to disperse puddles.
DO NOT remove muddy soil or turf from the field.

All of these unfortunate techniques leave a depression or low spot that will hold water every time it rains. Leveling a low spot is the best method to prevent puddling. The Parks Department is responsible for field leveling.

For shallow puddles, use a roller squeegee.

Only use roller squeegees made for turf.

Apply downward pressure on the handle as you walk.

Push standing water toward the outside of the field, never toward the middle.

A Water Hog is a giant sponge!

The absorptive outer layer soaks up water like a sponge.

The equipment is designed to "squeeze out" the outer sponge and hold the water in the internal cylinder.

The cylinder is opened and emptied away from the playing surface.

D. PORTABLE GOALS

Soccer and Lacrosse fields would be incomplete without the portable goals that provide the target for scoring! The primary concern with moveable goals is their ability to tip over and cause an injury. Hardware or weight bags can be used to secure the bottom crossbars to prevent tip-overs but must be done safely and correctly. Cranberry Township's Partner Associations provide guidelines for moveable goal safety to their participating members.

Stakes, bag weights, and plate weights are 3 approved methods to prevent tip-overs!

Move the goals for all non-game events! This significantly reduces wear at the goal mouth.

E. FIELD LINING TECHNIQUES

Always use a string as a guideline.

Only use marking paint that is specifically manufactured for turf.

DO NOT rinse paint into any drain! It violates local, state, and federal law. Move to an isolated lawn or wooded area and spray out the rinsate. ■



For the full manual, see <http://www.cranberrytownship.org/DocumentCenter/Home/View/16789>



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Athletic Field Use Policy

HERE ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS of Cranberry Township's policy manual for field users:

The purpose of this document is to establish policies and procedures that govern the use of Cranberry Township athletic fields with the overall goal of safe and playable conditions for all eligible users. The policy will outline the responsibilities of users from the initiation of an athletic field reservation with the Parks & Recreation Department through post event activities. Under all circumstances, Cranberry Township's Partner Associations (Seneca Valley Soccer Association-SVSA, Cranberry Township Athletic Association-CTAA, and Seneca Valley Junior Football Association-SVJFAC) assume full responsibility for the actions of any groups subletting fields in accordance with their lease contract. This document supersedes all previous athletic field use policies.

Bi-annual meetings will be held to discuss field specific issues such as maintenance schedules, facility issues, camps, tournaments, clinics, and overall timelines for use. The Athletic Field Use Policy will be reviewed at the bi-annual meetings and suggestions for changes or additions will be considered. The policy will be updated once annually each January. The meetings will be seasonal in nature with spring/summer sports slated for February/March and fall sports planned for June/July. Meetings will be initiated by Cranberry Township and will include representatives from Parks & Recreation, Public Works, and administrative personnel as deemed necessary. Each Partner Association requesting athletic field reservations is required to assign a representative to attend the meetings.

PARK RULES & REGULATIONS

All park visitors are required to abide by the rules of this policy as well as all Township ordinances. Park rules include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Athletic fields and shelters require reservations for use and can be scheduled through the Parks & Recreation Department.
- Pets are only allowed in the Rotary Dog Park located in Community Park.
- Alcoholic beverages, gambling, and fireworks are strictly prohibited.
- No glass containers are permitted in the park.
- Permitted field users are responsible for the sportsmanship of their players, coaches, officials, and spectators.
- Parking is in designated lots only. No parking is permitted on grass or landscaped areas for any reason. User groups must inform their participants and spectators to park in designated lots. It is the permitted user's responsibility to alleviate traffic and parking issues.
- At the conclusion of a practice or game, users must collect all litter and garbage from the field and adjacent areas and deposit in provided trash receptacles.
- The last field user of each day is responsible for moving nets, goals, benches, tackling sleds, bases, etc., completely OFF

the playing surface for maintenance and mowing purposes.

- Fencing and buildings are strictly off limits for use as warm-up targets, batting soft toss, or throwing against in any fashion.

FIELD RESERVATIONS & SCHEDULING

Athletic field use permits are issued through the Parks & Recreation Department. Requests must be submitted and approved prior to play. As well, cancellations and changes must be communicated with the Parks & Recreation Department so that scheduling software can be maintained completely and accurately. Correct contact information is required with each reservation so unexpected problems or closures can be communicated quickly.

PREVENTION & MAINTENANCE

Cranberry Township requests that Partner Associations refrain from or limit their use of heavy traffic wear areas during practices, regardless of weather, to assist in providing the best field conditions possible for scheduled games. This includes: goal areas, pitching mounds, foul lines, and any other portion of the field showing wear due to traffic. Preventing additional wear during non-game activities will greatly lengthen the playability of fields as the season progresses.

SCHEDULES

Partner Associations are responsible for maintaining an accurate schedule with the Parks & Recreation Department. The Public Works Grounds Maintenance Division will arrange operations around the daily schedule provided by the Parks & Recreation Department to minimize interference whenever possible. Therefore, unscheduled activities interfering with planned grounds maintenance operations are obliged to move at the request of Cranberry Township personnel.

MAINTENANCE CLOSURES

Fields may be closed at the discretion of the Grounds Maintenance Manager or designated Cranberry Township representative during times when the fields remain playable for certain operations such as aerification, emergency irrigation repairs, or pesticide applications. Partner Associations will be notified in advance whenever possible.



FIELD STATUS RECOMMENDATIONS

Cranberry Township will maintain a web page (www.cranberrytownship.org/fields) that provides daily field status recommendations of "open" or "closed" for Graham Park based on the playability, safety, and saturation of the athletic fields. The page will be updated Monday through Friday at 11am and at 9pm Friday and Saturday evening for the following day's play. If fields are listed as "closed" on the Township's website, Partner Association leaders have the opportunity to overwrite the decision since field playability may improve between the time of the web posting and scheduled play. Similarly, if a field is listed as "open" and precipitation deteriorates conditions so that field damage or unsafe conditions ensue, Partner Associations are responsible for cancelling or suspending play. Field damage will be addressed by the steps outlined in the following "Progressive Action Plan."

DETERMINING FIELD SATURATION

In order to make the determination of field saturation an objective measure, the grounds staff will use a Lincoln Soil Moisture Meter to read the level of water present in the soil. The meter reads 0-10 with 10 being complete saturation of the soil. When the meter reads 10, the field will be deemed too wet for use and designated as "closed." The grounds staff will use the meter on a minimum of 3 locations on each field: center field, goal mouths, and in the case of baseball/softball fields, the location of position players in the outfield. Readings will be taken as close to the webpage posting time as possible.

PROGRESSIVE ACTION PLAN FOR ATHLETIC FIELDS

- 1) The Grounds Maintenance Manager or designated Cranberry Township representative will inspect fields daily to determine if damage has been sustained that reduces the safety and playability of the surface.
- 2) Dated photos will document field conditions when damage occurs. Photos are stored on the Township's (W:) drive and are available upon request.
- 3) Fields will be closed as necessary for rest and renovation following events which cause damage and reduce safety. Users will be notified of rest periods on the Township's website and signs will be posted signifying the field as "closed." Cranberry Township may employ measures such as temporary fencing to isolate playing surfaces while renovation and grow-in is undertaken to restore safe playing conditions.
- 4) Continued or un-repairable damage by Partner Associations or other permitted users will result in the discontinuation of the agronomic maintenance program except for mowing. Primary field users will be notified in advance of Cranberry Township's intentions to change, discontinue, or temporarily suspend field maintenance programs.
- 5) Cranberry Township reserves the right to choose a third party regarded as an "athletic field expert" to settle disputes regarding the playability, safety, or un-repairable status of a field and its resultant rest and renovation period. An expert will be chosen through affiliation with a university and work in the field of agronomy or hold the minimum title of Director in a company specializing in athletic field maintenance. ■

For the full policy manual, see <http://www.cranberrytownship.org/DocumentCenter/Home/View/16788>

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Same stadium, new owners —one turf manager's story

GAINESVILLE IS LOCATED IN NORTHEAST GEORGIA on the shores of Lake Lanier. It is home to the Gainesville Red Elephants, a high school football team with a rich tradition and history. Their home, City Park, is a community landmark. The stadium has been around since the early 1900's, and has been a staple in the community.

The land was donated to the City of Gainesville in 1866 by the Banks family. The property and stadium was managed by the Parks and Recreation Agency. The stadium has been added to and upgraded throughout the years. In 2005 a complete renovation was done to the playing surface and several upgrades were done to the stadium. A sand-based field with subsurface drainage was chosen. A new irrigation system and TifSport bermuda turf were installed. This was a much needed upgrade and has been very well received by the players and community.

The field is set down in a bowl. Air movement is very limited and it has its

own micro climate. We have battled take-all patch ever since the renovation. In 2007 we had to replace 13,000 square feet of sod and in 2008 only 5,000 square feet. I slowly started to get it under control. We started preventative fungicide treatments and an aggressive aerification schedule. On two occasions we were able to completely grow in with no sodding. I kind of just learned to manage it because the disease really never leaves.

I was employed by Parks and Recreation in 2003. In 2006, I was promoted to Turf Manager. Along with our parks, youth league fields and adult softball complex, my responsibilities also included our baseball facility and City Park



THE CREW

From left to right

David Presnell, Ryan Casper, Travis Partin, Josiah Bowers

But just when I thought everything was going great the rug was about to be pulled out from under me.

JOHN MASCARO'S PHOTO QUIZ

John Mascaro is President of Turf-Tec International

Can you identify this sports turf problem?

Problem: Brown line on field in January

Turfgrass area: Soccer Stadium

Location: Cary, North Carolina

Grass Variety: 419 Bermudagrass

Answer to John Mascaro's Photo Quiz on Page 33



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wrote **Chip Baker**, Asst. Baseball Coach,
Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL

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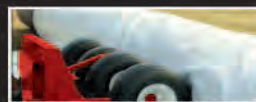
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Stadium. These two venues are our showcases and very special places to the community. I truly enjoyed managing these two facilities because of their high expectations and the success of our high school teams. Along the way I obtained my Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) status, won the 2008 STMA High School Football Field of the Year Award, and precisely molded my turf program to a tee. But just when I thought everything was going great the rug was about to be pulled out from under me.

STRAINED RELATIONSHIP

The relationship between the city school system and Parks and Recreation had always been a bit strained. In the spring of 2011, rumors started to fly about the stadium being deeded over to the school system. With the recession, government agencies were also strained. After all of my

work and planning I could only think "How is this going to affect me?" Was my beloved stadium being taken away from me? I was very concerned but decided to take a positive approach.

Around mid-May, all of the discussions resulted in a decision. The school board and city council made an agreement to deed the property to the school system and Parks and Rec would manage the facility for one year. This also allowed for a new 9,000 square foot field house to be built. I decided to take a different approach than my coworkers. Instead of doing the minimum amount possible, I set out to do the best possible job I could do. This decision proved to be the right choice.

With all the talk about the field, rumors started to escalate about me. Everyone knows how I felt about the stadium and wondered what I would do. Focusing on work resulted in possible new opportuni-

ties. Almost immediately I started getting calls asking if I would consider working for the school system. Behind the scenes I started toying with the idea of starting a new department. The lure of the high expectations the community had for the stadium intrigued me. While one side was coming after me, my current employer was talking to me about staying.

With one year left I buckled down and focused on my turf. Now the baseball facility was rumored to be changing hands also. Things started coming together and my decision was becoming crystal clear. The summer passed and football began. I was focusing on having the best field ever and made it clear to the school I wasn't going to talk to anyone until after the season was over. The football team was having a great season and as a result we hosted four home playoff games. We even had to work during Thanksgiving to prepare for a Friday game. Everyone was excited about playing at home so to me it was business as usual. We lost the last playoff game and the season was over. While I was closing down the stadium my mind started to look ahead. It was time to make a big decision.

Construction started on the field house in January. A construction zone inside the stadium offers plenty of challenges. They were there to do a job and I just tried to keep them away from the field. Finally after a year and a half of waiting I sat down and started talking with the school. This job was going to be a challenge. It would be a complete start up from scratch; from equipment, to a shop and a new staff. One thing was made clear from the beginning. The school wanted the field to be managed at the same high level everyone had come to expect. The standard was not going to change. If anything the standards were elevated.

The baseball facility was also turned over to the school, and I began to develop the department the way I wanted it ran. One consideration was whether or not to contract out some services for the first 2 years in order to buy equipment and implement our program. Either way, the school system wanted to hire me to oversee the process. Baseball and soccer soon started and I was working double-time. I spent most of my free time working on a

plan for my future. My family was very supportive. My wife never said a word as I worked 16-hour days preparing. Around April, I finally made a decision. Now after 2 years of wrangling, I accepted a job with the school system. During this process my father's health had declined and he passed away toward the end of the season. I am so thankful I was able to talk with him about this and get his advice.

MOVING FORWARD

With my decision made, I turned in my notice and looked to the future. I would stay to the end of May and begin my new job on June 1, 2013. We were slated to take over July 1 so I wanted a month to get everything in order. The baseball and soccer teams were making deep runs into the playoffs so my schedule never relented.

After looking at every possible angle we decided to do all the maintenance in house. Some of the other school fields were under contract so I would have a year to prepare. We leased a fleet of Toro equipment, posted

two full time positions and a part time position. I decided to implement an internship program to fill the part time position. Using the month of June to prepare was soon thrown out the window. I learned that aerification/topdressing and resodding was scrapped by Parks and Rec so it would all fall on me. Instead of pointing fingers, once again we decided to buckle down and handle the situation.

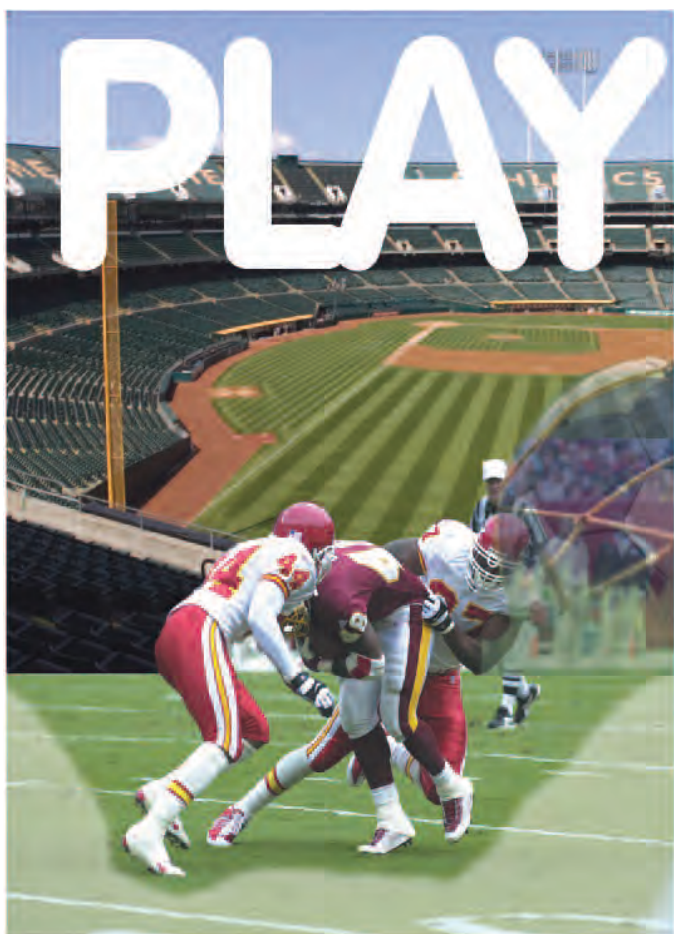
With our first game being televised and our new field house being dedicated, I knew a lot of eyes would be on us. Training the crew was done while we were in full swing. It turned out great because I learned what each person's strengths and weaknesses were. As a crew we were thrown right into action. They had to learn on the fly and under pressure. Football season went off without a hitch, and a lot of people said it was the best the field had ever looked. The team ended up winning a state championship so we are looking forward to another great year.

Looking back at things I think every-

thing turned out perfect. I wouldn't change my decision and I think the school system made the right decision. Next year we will be adding the remaining fields and picking up additional equipment and staff. I have had great support from everyone in the school system, from my department head, Keith Vincent, to the Superintendent and the School Board. They were determined to make this a success and they all stood behind me. Starting a department completely from scratch offered a lot of challenges; however, it has made me a better manager in the long run.

I wanted to tell this story to help my fellow turf managers if they find themselves in a similar situation. Most of us are truly dedicated to our turf and do whatever it takes to give the athletes the best surface possible. Just remember if you always give your best it will pay off for you in the long run. ■

David M. Presnell, CSFM, is athletic fields manager for the Gainesville (GA) City Schools.



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SAFETY

and potential liabilities for sports turf managers

WORKING AT BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY (BYU) we use mostly university students to help us do our jobs. We employ 350 to 400 students from May to October and employ 100 to 150 students from November to April. On average a student works for our department for about 12 weeks, resulting in a high turnover. This requires us to have a stringent training program in place including a Safety Program; we are constantly in training mode. Even with as much training as we provide our student employees, accidents still happen.

Here is an example of a serious accident that happened on my turf crew. My crew was asked to use a Soil Reliever featuring $\frac{3}{4}$ inch solid tines on the skinned area of our softball field. We started our runs from the third base side of the infield, near the fence, and made our run to the infield edge in right field. We would back the machine up and start another run next to the just completed run, each run moving closer to the

home plate area. We had an equipment operator and a spotter to assist in backing the machine up to the fence along the third base line. On one of the runs about halfway through the job, as the machine backed up with the spotter standing directly behind it in the pinch area, the operator went to start another run but the machine was still in reverse. The consequence of the oversight was the spotter being trapped between the fence and the Soil Reliever, with resulting injuries of a broken right leg and a tine going through the instep of his left foot.

As we started the project I stayed and watched to make sure my workers doing the job correctly. I watch them make several runs and the spotter always stood to the side of the machine as it was back up for the next run, the operator had no problems in operating the tractor safely. The accident occurred when both the operator and the spotter had a lapse in judgment.

INVESTIGATION TRIGGER

The accident triggered an Occupational Safety Health Administration (OSHA) in-

vestigation. The two workers involved in the accident were questioned as was I. I had to show training records for the two individuals and we had to demonstrate that we could operate the equipment in question safely. The finding of the OSHA investigation was a \$5,000 fine levied against the BYU for having an inconsistent training program. BYU's cost for the employee's medical treatment came to about \$150,000. Could this accident have been prevented? Yes. Most accidents happen because the employee gets complacent in doing a job over and over and forgets to think about safety; instead, he thinks "It will never happen to me."

So how can we prevent accidents in the future?

Believe it or not the answer is OSHA. Why OSHA? Quoting from their website: "With the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, Congress created the OSHA to assure safe and healthful working conditions for working men and women by setting and enforcing standards and by providing training, outreach, education and assistance. OSHA's core mission is to ensure a safe and healthy workplace for every working man and woman in the Nation." Maintaining a safe workplace environment is good common sense and it's the law.

Here is a fictional case study: Let's say you have an employee suffer a work-related, serious injury. The law states you must report the accident to OSHA within 48 hours which includes Saturdays and Sundays. If you fail to report the accident on time or at all you will be



DAVID SCHLOTTHAUER, sports turf manager, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT.

cited and fined for the violation. After the accident is reported, OSHA, at their discretion, will investigate the accident and determine how the accident happened and what can be done to prevent the accident in the future. If you take a passive stance, meaning do very little in the way of safety in your workplace, OSHA could levy a fine against you and if the accident is serious enough your company could be fined in the 6 or 7 digit range.

On the other hand if you take a pro-active approach to safety (having an aggressive training program, keeping record of employees' training, and having regular hazard assessment programs in place) you might not receive a fine or the fine will be minimal. Also, if you are cited and you can show evidence you are implementing the suggestions OSHA has set forth, part or the whole fine can be refunded to you.

By law OSHA can come into to your workplace and inspect your safety records, make recommendations and if found inadequate levy a fine against your company. They can come onto your worksite and observe your operation; if your worksite is deemed unsafe OSHA can shut down your worksite until you have made the safety changes they have told you to make, this can also include levying a fine against your company.

SO WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

First, set up and implement a good, sound Safety Program.

Second, keep detailed records of the Safety Training each employee receives and keep records of the all accidents that take place on the job no matter how small. Include on your accident form a "What do we do to prevent this accident in the future?" section on the form and implement those suggestions.

Third, implement a Hazard Assessment Program. Hazard Assessment is inspecting the work area for any potential hazards and fixing the hazards before someone actually gets injured. This is an ongoing process.

Fourth, re-evaluate your Safety Program, Hazard Assessment Program and make needed changes to your programs and then start over again. This is an ongoing process.

You might ask, "How do I do all this?" The answer is simple: go to <http://www.osha.org> and discover how to make sure your workplace is safe, secure, and OSHA-compliant.

What can OSHA provide for you?

OSHA offers online training; go to www.oshacampusonline.com/ for more information. OSHA will also come to your workplace and hold special classes for your employees on request. OSHA provides hundreds of publications available online at <http://www.osha.gov/pls/publications/publication.html>. They also provide On-Site Consultation (free of charge) to find out more go to <http://www.osha.gov/dcsp/smallbusiness/consult.html>. OSHA Offers a Compliance Assistance/Outreach Program, see http://www.osha.gov/dcsp/compliance_assistance/index.html. They also provide a section on recordkeeping, <http://www.osha.gov/recordkeeping/index.html>. These are just a few of many resources that OSHA provides.

Because OSHA oversees safety imple-

mentation for virtually everyone you may have to dig a little to find resources that relate to your situation and if all else fails you can contact OSHA directly. Go to the Contact Us section at http://www.osha.gov/html/Feed_Back.html.

If you do not have a sound safety program in place or you need to improve your existing program an OSHA representative will be happy to come to your workplace and help you set up or improve your safety program for of charge. Help is just a phone call away. ■

David Schlotthauer started working for the BYU Grounds Dept. in March of 1979. He has worked pruning trees and shrubs for 21 years and has spent the last 7 years as BYU Sports Turf Manager. David's responsibilities include the football field at Cougar Stadium, both the natural and synthetic turf at the football team's practice facilities, and over 40 acres of other fields. David also serves as the chapter president for the Intermountain Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association.

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How many hours DID YOU MOW LAST YEAR?

WE EMAILED A BUNCH OF STMA MEMBERS

to ask one question: How many hours did you mow in 2012?

I mow (on game days) the infield and skirts with the walk-behind greens mower, which takes about 45 minutes. On non-game days, I mow the same area with a walk-behind rotary mower. So that translates into: 70 games x 45 minutes = 52.5 hours on game days, and 40 non-game days x 45 minutes = 30 hours on non-game days. I also mow the outfield with the triplex 3-4 times a month. That allows me to get a good read on that turf. My assistant does the rest of the outfield mowing. So that would be 9 months x 4 mowings of 60 minutes each = 36 hours annually on the

triplex, for a total of approximately 118.5 annual hours mowing

—Keith Winter, head grounds-keeper, Fort Wayne Tin-Caps

Okay, we mow three times a week approximately with pedestrian cylinder mowers (professional), which takes 3 hours, and let's base this on one professional soccer pitch. We have undersoil heating and lights so we mow through the winter due to the growth we can achieve. The surface usually has a month off for concerts, etc. So, 11 months and approx 12 mowings per month = 36 hours per week x 48 = total 1,728 hours

—Phil Sharples, sports turf agronomist, Galatasaray FC, Worcestershire, United Kingdom

At our facility, we have 12 bermuda fields so obviously I don't do all of this by myself! After doing some quick math, I say we spend approximately 1,100-1,150 hours/year mowing. CRAZY!

—Allison Moyer, grounds manager, Collegiate School, Richmond, VA

As a crew, we mowed for roughly 500 hours last year. We maintain about 92,000 square feet. I personally probably only mowed for about 50 hours or so seeing as my crew members do most of the mowing.

—Chad Laurie, head groundskeeper, Buffalo Bisons

Our annual mowing window in mid-Michigan is 30 weeks.

We mow 16 acres of irrigated athletic fields 3 times per week at an average of 4.5 mph with a 72-inch zero-turn mower. Our productivity is 3 acre per hour. $(30 \times 3) 16 / 3 = 480$ hours per year (out of 1,200 man hours, that's interesting).

The rest of the story is that two groundskeepers, Scott Falahee and Jeff Kotas, mow the athletic fields, each with a 72-inch zero-turn, which cuts the time in half which allows them to handle many other responsibilities. Once in while, I may mow to get a sense of the surface condition or help the guys during a busy week.

—Mark Frever, CSFM, director of grounds, Albion College

I say the total man hours is about 1,000 for my main campus crew; the Ambler Sports Complex crew are probably cutting about 2,500 hours per year (total man hours).

—Craig Roncace, turf manager, Temple University

We as a crew mowed about 1,200 hours last year. I personally mowed probably 900 hours. That is performed on soccer stadium field, soccer practice field and baseball stadium.

—Jay Warnick, CSFM, athletic fields manager, University of Portland

I mow a few other areas on occasion but primarily I mow Beaver Stadium. We start mowing the field around April 1 through the beginning of December, usually three times a week, sometimes four during the season. I would say somewhere around 350 to 400 hours of mowing the field for Penn State football.

—Paul Curtis, groundskeeper, The Pennsylvania State University

For my 8 acres of grass I mowed for roughly 175 hours last year.

—Roger Weinbrenner, CSFM, turf technician, University of St. Thomas

We have 27 total acres, nine of which are turfgrass. It takes 6 hours to mow those nine acres. We mow 1x/week in April and October, 2x/week in May and September, and 3x/week June through August, for a total of 468 hours a season on the turfgrass. For the non-turfgrass acreage, it is 48 hours total in July, August and November; 96 hours total in March, June, September and October; and 192 hours total in April and May, for a grand total of 912 hours.

—Wayne Treadway, director, Dandridge (TN) Parks & Rec

I personally mow an average of 90 hours a year. As a team we mow an average 3 days a week 6 hours per day for 9 months, that is 648 hours.

—Sam Burris, athletic field supervisor, University of Mary Washington

For a rough “guesstimate” it seems I spend about 780 hours on the mower here at Valley Ranch. I can’t believe I spend the equivalent of almost 20 work weeks on a mower.

—Chris Morrow, field supervisor, Dallas Cowboys practice facility

It looks like I spent about 735 hours mowing in 2012. This includes mowing the baseball and softball fields three times per week, and starting their mowing a couple weeks earlier than the rest of the complex, mowing the practice field twice a week, and mowing the non-field areas once a week.

—Kari Allen, CSFM, sports turf technician, Sodexo/Benedictine University

We roughly spend from April 1 to October 15 mowing about 30-36 hours a week, equaling 840-1,008 hours mowing. I have two part time seasonal workers that do most of the mowing weekly; I am involved about 8 hours a week.

—Dave Reiss, turf manager, Wasatch (UT) SD

My best educated guess is about 520 hours

—Patrick Francisco, facility manager, Smith River Sports Complex, Martinsville, VA

990 hours

—Mark Kubacki, superintendent/grounds, Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame, IN

November through February we average 50-60 hours a month for the sports fields and common grounds. In

March through October we average 80-90 hours a month because everything is growing more and rain is more readily available.

—Vince Muia, head groundskeeper, Out of Door Academy, Statham, GA ■



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A photograph of a large, empty stadium with tiered seating and a green field. The text "THE ONE" is overlaid in large white letters. Below it, a smaller line of text reads "No other bermuda matches Riviera's super-rich quality." The stadium has a curved roof and blue-tinted glass panels. The field is a vibrant green with white yard lines visible.

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Advice from STMA Conference sessions on managing infield skins

AS ALWAYS, the Sports Turf Managers Association's Conference Education Subcommittee makes sure there are experts presenting on maintaining infield skin areas at its Conference. This past January in Daytona Beach was no different; STMA gathered Grant McKnight of Natural Sand; Bill Deacon, director of landscape and field operations for the New York Mets; Luke Yoder, director of field and landscape

» **LARRY DIVITO**, head groundskeeper for the Minnesota Twins, demonstrates how to add conditioner to a field during a previously held seminar.



maintenance for the San Diego Padres; John Turnour, head groundskeeper for the Washington Nationals; and Eric Blanton, manager for turf and grounds for the Reno Aces to conduct a panel discussion. Here are some highlights from that session:

Grant McKnight stressed to the audience the importance of knowing where you are starting from with regard to improving your infield mix. How much sand, silt and clay do you have now? Use that information

and knowledge of how soils components go together to get the desired end product. McKnight also said turf managers need to understand what is possible on their infields based on the level of play and the level of maintenance on any given field.

It was McKnight and former MLB groundskeeper and now executive at Beacon Athletics, Paul Zwaska, who first came up with the "silt to clay ratio" that is quickly becoming state of the art in determining the right combination across the particle spectrum for infield mixes. McKnight said small changes in your mix can make huge differences in playability.

An attendee asked, "What is the minimum depth you want to till a skin when you are adding soil?" The panel's response was if you are amending your soil, go only into the top 3 inches, but if you are trying to build more permanent structure, you can't just scratch in material. For a new construction situation, 4 inches is preferred, but the panel added that if you are

using better materials you can get away with 3 inches.

Another question: "How can you judge compaction?" Answer: A real scientific method—after putting good moisture on your skin, can you easily put a key into and out of your mix? If so you are good.

Yoder recommended pulling a sample when you have infield sand or other material delivered and send it off for testing. "You have to be willing to send it back," he said. "The tests are cheap. Get a 2 millimeter sieve and take the sample when it's still on the truck. You can trust your supplier and still test."

Deacon answered a question about what depths the materials underneath the top 3 inches should be. "We just pulled ours out at Citi Field and it was like concrete; it wasn't originally made up of materials that I had recommended. We replaced it with sand and gravel which can release water better," he said. "We first put down 4 inches of 3/8-inch gravel, then 6 inches of sand, and then 6 inches of infield mix."

Yoder added that he doesn't recommend using any type of weed barrier when building an infield. "They are not necessary and it only messes with your moisture management," he said.

Dr. Norm Hummel, a noted luminary in the world of soil science and president of his own soil testing company, added from the audience that if you have a good native soil base you can get away with simply adding 3 inches of a good mix on top.

Adding material to your infield

Yoder recommended using a Harley rake drum attachment with metal studs to incorporate material into your existing

With just ½% grade you can get rainwater to run off without players even being able to tell it's graded.

mix. "At the high school level, for example, put your new material on top and then use the Harley rake for about an hour to till it in," he said. "If you are just adding material, you can even nail-drag it in."

"Tilling and grading is the ideal situation," Yoder said, "but if you till it in then you really should follow up with a laser-grading."

Question from the audience: "Should you add sand via injection on your skin?" Answer, from McKnight: "No, you have to incorporate sand into the mix. Adding straight sand is not recommended because eventually it just floats back up to the top."

McKnight continued: "A good infield absorbs water; it doesn't drain water. It should hold moisture and a good profile will hold water longer. If your infield is draining, it will eventually fall apart."

Yoder: "At the high school level, a hard and firm surface is better than having whatever material is on top blowing off. If possible, you should soak your infield for 30 minutes after a game, then nail drag it the next morning followed by using a drag mat."

McKnight: "At lower levels of competition, in the heat of summer, you are going to have more compaction so it is best to open up the infield skin after it rains but when the top ½ inch gets dry. Then drag it for a more consistent surface. At these levels you need to use calcined or vitrified clay for sliding purposes."

Rolling

Blanton: "I never roll my infield though we do use a hand roller on the edges. We let nature take its course. We roll after edging because we want to pack it down; it's more about playability than aesthetics."

Yoder: "We roll (1 ½-ton) before homestands, just one or two decent rolls to tighten things up."

Turnour: "The day before a homestand we roll once to tighten it up, unless it is too dry; it's a fine line in determining when to roll. We roll our edges, with the roller half on the dirt, half on the grass."

McKnight: "If you use a roller, you must then use a nail board. And if you find you are using a roller once a week or so, you need to amend your infield mix; something's not right."

A question on using vitrified clay elicited these responses:

Deacon: "I have used it for sliding surfaces or to add color."

Yoder: "I don't use it; I think of it more as a warning track material."

Turnour: "I don't have much experience with vitrified and I'm comfortable with straight calcined."

Paul Zwaska, another expert in attendance, added that he thought that in a region like Washington, DC, vitrified clay might help moisture management.

McKnight: "If you are incorporating a conditioner into your soil structure, and you have better soil, you can use a product for its color or added durability or as a topdressing for extra absorbency."

McKnight answered another question on infields with high sand contents: "No, adding a pallet of calcined clay conditioner will not improve that mix." ■


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American Sports Builders Association's Field Award winners

HONORS were announced at ASBA's Technical Meeting last year in Orlando. Entries were scored individually based on considerations such as layout and design, site work, drainage, base construction, surface, amenities, innovation and overall impression. Winning entries were those whose cumulative scores meet or exceed the standard.

SINGLE FIELD FACILITY WINNER

In terms of facilities, **PK Park at the University of Oregon** is an outstanding two-season athlete. The facility serves as home field for the Ducks during the NCAA baseball season. Once school lets out, it hosts the Eugene Emeralds, a San Diego Padres class A Minor League baseball team.

And before that, it was a gravel parking lot that only saw use during Oregon's home football games.

According to Aaron Olsen of Cameron McCarthy Landscape Architecture & Planning in Eugene, OR the project needed to be completed in two phases. The first phase created a field and temporary facilities in time for the inaugural season of the university's baseball team in 2009. The program, which was being revived, previously had been disbanded in 1981, and now required an all-new home.

"Starting in 2008, our firm, in collaboration with the Phase I design team, participated in master planning/schematic design for PK Park to facilitate in giving the field a permanent location," notes Olsen. "Phase I was comprised of the permanent construction of the baseball field and subgrade drainage, field walls/fencing, outfield light structures, score board/video board, bullpens, player development area, and ADA parking."

The outfield light support structures in the field were a custom design and a nod to

the history of baseball and light structures at historical fields.

"The concept began as a sketch our office prepared, and Musco lighting, along with engineers, took from concept to the built element," said Olsen. "A synthetic turf playing surface, including the infield, batter's box and warning track, was chosen for its consistent playability in the Northwest region during the NCAA season (February to June), which is consistently rainy. Construction of temporary dugouts, bleachers, press box, and related site improvements was completed to accommodate the Oregon Ducks 2009 season."

When the collegiate season ended, Phase II of the project got underway. Work included the stadium itself (including dugouts, locker rooms, concessions, etc.), field lighting, plazas, and spectator areas.

Shortly after the Ducks' season ended, PK Park became a permanent home for the Eugene Emeralds. This also required some versatility on the part of the field, said Olsen.

"The batter's box is designed to convert from synthetic turf during the NCAA season to clay for the minor league season. A permeable asphalt pad with concrete headers was constructed to ease the transition between the materials and allow both to

Other Projects named as Outstanding Multi-Field Facilities

Fenn School - Reynolds Athletic Fields

Concord, MA
Upgrade of Existing Facility:
Stantec Sport (Boston, MA)

Lexington Center Play Fields Phase I

Lexington, MA
Upgrade of Existing Facility:
Stantec Sport (Boston, MA)

Pomfret School

Pomfret, CT
New Construction:
Huntress Associates, Inc. (Andover, MA)

Distinguished Single Field Facilities 2012

Stagg High School - Phase II

Stockton, CA
New Construction:
Verde Design, Inc.
(Santa Clara, CA)

North Canton Hoover Football/Lacrosse Stadium

North Canton, OH
Upgrade of Existing Construction:
Vasco Sports Contractors
(Massillon, OH)

Fairview High School

Fairview, PA
Upgrade of Existing Facility:
Vasco Sports Contractors
(Massillon, OH)

SCU Bellomy

Santa Clara, CA
Upgrade of Existing Facility:
Verde Design, Inc.
(Santa Clara, CA)

Lodi Grape Bowl

Lodi, CA
Upgrade of Existing Facility:
Beals Alliance (Folsom, CA)

Bodner Rugby Field at California State Maritime Academy

Vallejo, CA
Upgrade of Existing Facility:
Beals Alliance (Folsom, CA)

Goodreau Field at Villanova Stadium

Villanova, PA
Upgrade of Existing Facility:
Stantec Sport (Boston, MA)

John Gutierrez Stadium, Bloomfield High School

Bloomfield, NM
Upgrade of Existing Facilities:
General Acrylics, Inc. (Phoenix, AZ)

fully function. The pitching mound is clay. The turf is a 2 ½" pile height. Infill is 1 ¾" deep totaling 9 pounds of sand and rubber per square foot. Crushed cinder rock, 1/8" minus, was installed at the warning track to create a tactile change from the field infill. Seams are sewn using the manufacturer's recommended methods. The perimeter of the synthetic turf is attached to a concrete header and composite lumber nailer board. The synthetic turf profile includes a minimum of 6" open-graded base rock at the field perimeter and gradually gets thicker toward the field centerline/collector pipe."

The warning track was made of 20' wide FieldTurf in a rust color with a thin top dressing of cinders to provide a tactile distinction from the baseball field. The infield skinned areas are FieldTurf Mini Pitch, 2-½" pile height with 1-¾" on brown-colored sand/rubber infill.

Even the aesthetics of the synthetic turf were carefully planned, noted Olsen.

"The alternating striped pattern of dark green and light green colors was chosen for





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a few reasons: to mimic field mowing patterns commonly found at highly groomed grass fields of big league ballparks; to distinguish PK Park compared to other baseball synthetic turf fields; and to continue a brand identity associated with University of Oregon playing surfaces, most notably the alternating green patterns found at the Autzen Stadium football field."

MULTI-FIELD FACILITY WINNER

The ability to multi-task isn't just for the workforce any longer. These days, it applies to athletic facilities. Administrators and owners want venues that work as hard as they do, filling a variety of needs each day.

When **Homestead High School, Cupertino, CA** decided to rehab and improve their sports fields, their wish list was challenging, at best. Because the existing fields hosted an array of sports (football, soccer, field hockey, baseball and softball) throughout the school year, the surface had become worn and in some places, skinned, over time.

"The fields needed to be used year-round," noted Derek McKee of Verde Design, Inc. in Santa Clara, CA. And other challenges existed, since "the existing site was not ADA-compliant, and the fields were elevated from the campus."

The professional team met with administrators, athletes, faculty and more, and came up with a plan to overhaul the facilities. A synthetic turf surface was selected, and a series of fields was developed.

"Site improvements included the demolition of everything in the area," said McKee. In its place came a new plan that included two adjacent multi-use areas. One area has softball use, and the other has baseball. Each

Verde Design made an attempt to uphold eco-friendly standards throughout the process. The synthetic turf was DuraSpinePro from FieldTurf, with an infill that was 40% rubber produced from recycled tires frozen in a cryogenic process.



field has a multi-use outfield for other sports. Both fields have a varsity field area and another area for practice. Between the fields is a solar voltaic array that provides a nice shaded area for viewing the games, and great seating for the soccer and field hockey games with five-row bleachers."

Among the new amenities were new backstops, CMU dugouts, storage areas at the home dugouts, bullpens, perimeter fencing, scoreboards and site furnishings. Several ramps and stair connections were added to enhance accessibility.

The new fields, however, were not as easy to install as they were to describe.

"The largest obstacle was the grading system," said Olsen. "Existing grades sloped substantially due to the fact that they were natural grass, and had no drainage systems. We developed several concepts to review options for grading and earthwork quanti-

ties. The final result for these fields was a surface slope of less than one percent for the synthetic fields which created cut on one side and fill on the campus side. In the end, we did have off-haul, but it was limited based on the studies and planning effort."

Verde Design made an attempt to uphold eco-friendly standards throughout the process. The synthetic turf was DuraSpinePro from FieldTurf, with an infill that was 40% rubber produced from recycled tires frozen in a cryogenic process. In addition, pathways were added around the field, and over 100 trees were planted. Landscaping included native grasses and wildflowers for low maintenance and water use. In addition, LED site lighting was used.

In addition, Homestead took home the ASBA's 'Green Award,' bestowed upon one project per year, for excellence in eco-friendly design and construction. ■

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ALPENROSE STADIUM, Portland, OR

- ◎ **Level of Submission:** Schools/Parks
- ◎ **Category of Submission:** Softball
- ◎ **Head Sports Turf Manager:** Mike Hebrard
- ◎ **Title:** Head Groundskeeper
- ◎ **Education:** Master's Degree in HPE
- ◎ **Experience:** Mike was the bullpen catcher and head groundskeeper for the Amarillo Gold Sox (Texas League) AA affiliate of the San Diego Padres, 1979-82; lawn seed sales, Pro Time Lawn Seed, 1985-93; owner of Athletic Field Design, 1993 to present, all athletic fields grass and synthetic.
- ◎ **Other crew to recognize:** Jesse Johnsen, Sammy Field & the Alpenrose staff; also Anthony Paul Murillo, Bob Proctor, and Andy Hebrard.
- ◎ **Original construction:** 1956
- ◎ **Renovation:** 2010
- ◎ **Reason for renovation:** There are approximately 180 games a year plus family picnic games. With the ESPN 2 coverage for the Little League Softball World Series, we try and make Alpenrose Stadium a true showcase for Little League International, Alpenrose Dairy and District 4, AFD supporters and sponsors.
- ◎ **What was done:** Sod cut and lips removed from grass edges, topdressed with washed sand, aerated and slice seeded with perennial ryegrass and fertilized. The outfield has been topdressed with washed sand for the past 10+ years with a 1/4" each year. Due to skin infields the past 3 years, an elimination of fungicides application since we didn't have to try germinate grass in 90+ degree weather.
- ◎ **Turfgrass variety:** Perennial ryegrass
- ◎ **Rootzone composition:** Native soil, clay/loam, sand added with renovation
- ◎ **Overseeding:** We topdress first, this allows the aerator to push sand into soil profile, and since the plugs get coated with sand, they tend to dry out quicker and allow them to break up more when slice seeded. We don't have the resources to remove the plugs, so this also allows us to reuse the soil to fill in low spots. If we aerate first the plugs are matted into the soil profile when it topdressed. We seed at 7 lbs per 1000 sq ft and topdress with 25 cubic yards of washed sand topdressed.
- ◎ **Drainage:** No drainage system.

Challenges

The most unique challenge for the grounds crew was the short window we had in converting Alpenrose Stadium from a traditional and regulation little league baseball playing surface to a traditional and regulation softball playing surface, and back again.

JOHN MASCARO'S PHOTO QUIZ

Answers from page 17

The brown line in early January on this field is the result of a growth cover that separated. (You did not overthink the reason for this line I hope.) Since this part of North Carolina is in the transition zone, many bermudagrass fields in this area are overseeded. Since this soccer stadium had no late play and did not have a match until April 1 however, the Sports Turf Manager felt like they had plenty of time to get the bermudagrass green for the first match. The crew put covers on the field at the end of November and left them down until 2 days before the match. They did remove the covers in late January to put out an application of pre-emergent herbicide and that is when this area was discovered. They actually caught the cover separation with plenty of time and covered it back up prior to the event. Standing on top of the spot you could slightly see the line but you could not see it from the stands and the field played very well for the event.

Photo submitted by Jimmy Simpson, CSFM, facility works expeditor for the Town of Cary, Cary, NC. ■



If you would like to submit a photograph for John Mascaro's Photo Quiz please send it to John Mascaro, 1471 Capital Circle NW, Ste # 13, Tallahassee, FL 32303 call (850) 580-4026 or email to john@turf-tec.com. If your photograph is selected, you will receive full credit. All photos submitted will become property of *SportsTurf* magazine and the Sports Turf Managers Association.

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This process consisted of having to strip the normal grass infield and install a softball skinned infield. More than aesthetically pleasing, we had to install a playing surface that was more importantly a safe playing surface, a playing surface that allowed for better and more consistent playability for players, as well as coaches and umpires. All of this had to be done with only 26 days of preparation.

We had from July 13 to August 7 to pull off this enormous task, as the World Series ran from August 8 through August 15. This gave us 19 days in the month of July and 7 days in the month of August. We had to remove the turf and its netting without taking out too much (native) soil and disturbing the grade of the infield. This was a very labor intensive process that took the majority of man hours, budget dollars, materials cost, and equipment use.

In order to preserve as much of the infield soil as possible and without disturbing the grade of the field as much as possible a traditional sod cutter was used. Additionally, we had to remove all existing turf and scraps from the infield with as little disturbance to left field as much as possible. The left field gate serves as the only entrance and exit for equipment used on the field.

We saved many, many man hours by using an experienced and expert ASV operator that completed this task with precise operation. This lightweight piece of equipment with rubber tracks served as an excellent piece of equipment in allowing very, very little disturbance to the grade of the infield and the turf in the outfield. Also, $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood was laid from the left field gate through left field to the edge of the infield dirt between shortstop and third base to serve as protection to the turf. By using the ASV a whole $\frac{1}{4}$ day was saved in what would have been a normal a full day process.

We had to research and find the best quality of dirt to be transported in to install this newly skinned infield. This dirt had to be clean, free of rock and waste debris and more importantly, this dirt had to be of World Series quality that would provide a safe, consistent and stable playing surface that any levels of fast pitch softball would want to play on. We also had a language barrier with crew that added to our challenge.

SportsTurf: Your job is different from most FOY winners. Please describe what your company does and tell us who some of your customers are.

Hebrard: Going into my 20th year of basically doing any type of athletic field work that a school, park or college might need. I started off by cutting lines for the local high school football fields and of course they asked if I could do numbers and yard marks, then asked if I could do logos. I responded I never have done that before, so gradually I learned on

everyone else's dime. That was also the 1st year that the Local Little League District 4 bid on bringing the Major Girls Softball World Series to Portland and having Alpenrose Dairy and their fields hosting.

I do football and soccer layout and lines for most of the high schools in the Portland area and have established what I call the Corn Dog Circuit which is small schools that are over an hour's drive. I have also done specialized painting on synthetic turf for local colleges such as Oregon State and Pacific University as well as most of the lacrosse on grass and turf. Also I maintain youth baseball fields, aerating, topdressing, slice seeding, laser grading and layout working with the league volunteers.

SportsTurf: What channels of communication do you use to reach your customers' coaches and administrators? Any tips on communicating well?

Hebrard: I try to attend, present or display at their annual clinics or conventions and advertise in their directories. I try to stay away from the tournament publications as they are only used for a short period of time where as a directory even with our high tech web tags still gets looked at all year. I usually donate a lawn art certificate to their auctions that promotes other things I can do as well as places a value on the work. I try to attend other sports at big events even basketball. I usually have some wise guy say, "What are you going to do paint the court?" I was involved with college basketball for 9 years and was an assistant coach when we played Indiana State and Larry Bird. And I have painted outdoor basketball courts as well.

SportsTurf: What do you find most enjoyable about your job? What do you find most distasteful?

Hebrard: Going to a disaster and leaving later in the day with everyone happy and the game going on! I really enjoy painting the logos for special events, birthday, golf tournaments and ball games. I always have someone ask me why I don't have the crew paint them. And I usually say why would I want to pay someone to do the fun stuff?

As for the bad stuff, it is keeping the equipment running! I have very specialized equipment and have most of it modified to my needs. I probably have more than 20 small engines to operate machines and more than six paint machines. Back ups for a back up. My wife said she can envision my son Andy taking over the business and me repairing the equipment. I said I don't like doing now, why would I want to do it if I was trying to retire?

SportsTurf: How did you get started in turf management? What was your first sports turf job?

Hebrard: Upon moving to Amarillo, TX to be an assistant basketball coach for West Texas State, I had a couple people I knew on the AA affiliate of the San Diego Padres the Amarillo Gold Sox. So I went to a couple of games and was dumbfounded when I saw how bad the field was! One of my jobs with the college was to sell tickets to our basketball games and the guy that just bought the Gold Sox always got involved in the community. He saw in my bio that I caught a little in college and asked if I wanted to be their bullpen catcher. I told him since we had no obligations with basketball in the summer that I might try and get a job where I could get off early to work out with the team. He said why don't

you help the head groundskeeper? Well the first day I ended up telling the old guy what to do and I didn't know anything. Needless to say I brought up the level of work which he couldn't keep up with and left by the end of the month. Well when the mound was crummy the night before, I'm in the bullpen with the pitchers and they tell me what they thought, I take ground balls from the infielders, they told me what they thought, I shag flies with the outfielders and they told me what they thought. So I learned by fire! Also I would get a roving instructor come in town and give me some pointers as well as going on a road trip and get to the yard early and talk to other groundskeepers.

SportsTurf: What changes if any are you considering or implementing for the winning field in 2012?

Hebrard: Well since getting in the room at 2 in the morning after receiving the FOY award, getting up @ 5 for the flight back to Portland arriving at 12:30. Hoping to get some sleep before our Old Timers Banquet, (Dale Murphy, our guest speaker) Since my wife and I are involved in the organization she wanted to go early so I cleaned up and went with her. I also buy 2 tables to thank people that have helped me during the year, and had to help someone draw the tickets for the raffle prizes in another room when I heard my name called. The Organization presented me with a Merit award for my work with youth baseball fields including Alpenrose Stadium. Coincidentally, Dale grew up in Portland and played at Alpenrose and mentioned that some of his best memories of playing baseball happen there. Upon presenting the award to Carl Cadonau of Alpenrose Dairy he mentioned to me that he wants to convert the East field into the New Intermedi-

ate level playing surface that Little League International is now promoting. Just need to remove 27 curly willows, add another 50 feet all around and build a 5' retaining wall! I want to have an interactive contest for Softball World Series follower to have a chance to vote on which pattern we do on the infield. I'm still trying to get the upgrade of the electrical power to the fields so that we can improve the lighting, hope to get some drainage on one of the fields each year and just simply maintain our strive for excellence!

SportsTurf: How do you see the sports turf manager's job changing in the future?

Hebrard: More attention to detail and budget. I can see that the use of cell phones will be invaluable to the groundkeeper as the instant acquisition of apps allows for a quick accurate answer to their needs. Plant of disease recognition, field measurements, Google earth and so on! Less and less help but more versatile equipment. ■

The STMA Field of the Year Awards began in 1988 and are given annually in baseball, football, softball, soccer and sporting grounds in three levels: professional, collegiate and schools/parks. A panel of 11 judges independently scores the applications and the winners are announced at the STMA Annual Conference and Exhibition. Winners receive signature clothing, complimentary conference registration, three night's accommodations and a trophy for display. The Field of the Year Program is made possible through the generous donations of Carolina Green Corporation, Ewing Irrigation Products, Hunter Industries, and World Class Athletic Surfaces, Inc.

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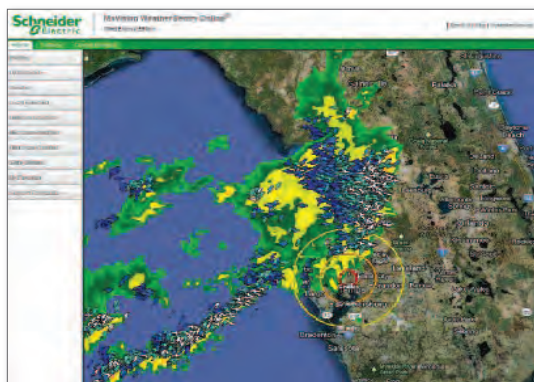
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Latest storm warning product update

Editor's note: The information presented here was supplied by Lauren Manix from Tunheim Partners for Schneider Electric.

THE NORTHWEST INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT (ISD) is located in the northwest corner of the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. The district has 14,000 elementary, middle school and high school students, with total enrollment expected to double by 2030. There are two high schools, Northwest and Byron Nelson. Northwest High School has more than 3,200 students and more than 1,200 of them are involved in outdoor activities.



Like most Texas high schools, Northwest High School's primary weather challenges are lightning, severe storms, tornadoes and high winds. Northwest ISD includes the two high school campuses and a shared stadium located approximately 1 mile from Northwest High School. The district needed a solution that would provide critical alerts and weather information for all locations.

Northwest ISD has 10 user licenses to Schneider Electric's MxVision WeatherSentry Online Turf Edition professional package. The system provides access both online and via mobile device, and includes Alert Manager, Lightning Manager, MxVision Weather Information Notification System (WINS), and the ability to ask weather questions to an experienced meteorologist any time of the day or night.

Alert Manager notifies the team of significant weather changes within their chosen coverage area. This customizable tool can also sound alarms for changes to weather conditions like wind speed, or when the National Weather Service issues a watch, warning or advisory.

Lightning Manager gives advance warning to dangerous weather conditions by using real-time lightning data rather than predictions that can lead to false alarms or delayed reporting after lightning has struck.

MxVision WINS delivers instant, personalized weather alerts on any email compatible cell phone,

PDA, pager or PC. It constantly monitors user-specified weather parameters at chosen locations, allowing turf managers to focus on other duties.

"A week after subscribing to the product, I received a text alert for lightning in our area," said Scott Fletcher, Northwest High School's head athletic trainer. The school receives a watch alert when lightning is detected within 30 miles, and a warning when lightning is within 10 miles.

School policy dictates students must be moved indoors when lightning is detected within 10 miles. "At this time, not only did we move the freshman football team to our indoor practice facility, but we moved the band indoors as well," Fletcher continued. "Less than 5 minutes after we had everyone inside and safe, our band director witnessed a lightning bolt hit the parking lot where the band was practicing. In light of this event, we already consider the system as having paid for itself, as it prevented injury to our 150 band members."

In addition to the watch and warning lightning alerts, the school receives an all-clear alert, letting them know when it is safe for student athletes to return to the field. District policy states they must wait until 30 minutes after the last lightning strike detected within 10 miles, before returning outdoors.

They also have alerts set for precipitation and high winds. "Our coaches like to know what's coming," Fletcher stated. "When rain is expected, they may put away their good equipment, or move practice indoors all together."

The district is currently working on a heat policy. Fletcher said when it is established he will set an alert for heat indexes as well.

The location-based alerts and forecasts enable the district to monitor up to six locations at a time. "We looked at the other systems out there, but would have had to purchase a different system for each campus," Fletcher said. "With this system we can monitor all locations, plus we can change locations when on the road, and get alerts for away games."

Exclusive to Schneider Electric's product is the online consulting tool, which is available 24/7. This allows you to type in a weather question and receive an answer from a Schneider Electric meteorologist within 15 minutes. "We use the consulting quite a bit — typically asking whether or not we can practice that afternoon," said Fletcher. "It's nice to get a professional's opinion, and to have them verify what we're seeing. They get back to us quickly." ■

Q&A

Q: What infrastructure and technology must be in place to install and use the package?

A: No existing infrastructure is necessary. MxVision WeatherSentry Online is a web-based solution that can easily be accessed anywhere—at the office, on the field, or at home. The solution is accessible on PCs, tablets and mobile devices for ease of access across platforms. Map and radar views can be customized in a full-screen interactive mode to monitor severe weather on one interface.

Q: Is a public warning system part of the package?

A: No.

Q: Do you pay more for alerts on different weather events or is it all-inclusive?

Alerting is all-inclusive with our Platinum and Professional packages. Schneider Electric offers patented, location-based alerts on the conditions of most importance to the client. Common conditions customers set alerts for include lightning, wind speed, temperature, wet bulb globe temperature for heat stress and more. Alerts can be set up for geographically specific areas or a radius around an area, and customers can choose to be alerted both to those conditions as well as all-clear alerts. Once setup, the customer will receive the alerts on both their PC and mobile device, plus they can have these same alerts sent to more than one member of their staff.

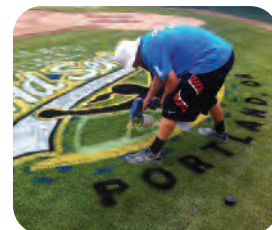
Q: How does the consulting feature work, and is that an extra cost?

A: Online consulting is a standard feature in our Platinum and Professional packages. From the product, the client simply types in their question, and receives an answer within minutes from one of our experienced meteorologists. Users can even ask and receive questions from their mobile devices. Questions and corresponding answers are also posted from others in your same region/industry. Questions are answered. ■

New Graco ProStencil

Graco's ProStencil is the industry's first battery-powered, high-pressure airless handheld paint sprayer. This sprayer works great for small logos, stencils (i.e. pink breast cancer ribbon), or spraying unique colors in large logos. The AZ Cardinals use this tool exclusively to spray the yellow beak in the cardinal logo. Simply add undiluted field marking paint to the 32 oz. cup and spray. Clean-up and color changes are simple, and there is no hose to contend with. You can even use this sprayer to touch-up goal posts, storage buildings, or to spot treat weeds with water-based herbicide/weed killers. ProStencil comes complete with two 20V lithium-ion power pack batteries, battery charger, 24" spray extension, 32oz cup with cover, and a storage case. Add the ProPack portable spray pack accessory for additional spraying capacity.

Graco



Turfco's T3000i spreader sprayer with 3-in-1 auxiliary tank

Turfco's T3000i spreader sprayer coupled with the optional 3-in-1 Auxiliary Tank provides maximum productivity and ease of use. With hands-free speed control the patent-pending T3000i is made even more productive with the tank's additional spray capacity. The versatile T3000i spreader sprayer is small enough to fit through a 36-inch gate, yet productive enough for large commercial properties, resulting in easier route management and increased efficiency. Features include an innovative hands-free speed control system, trim-speed lock and a longer-lasting pump. A new optional 175-pound hopper is also available, enabling the spreader sprayer to cover a larger area more quickly and enhancing run time. The patent-pending hands-free speed control system gives the operator unprecedented command. A speed-control pedal allows the operator to keep one hand free at all times to run the sprayer spreader.

Turfco



Shielded sprayer from Grasshopper

Apply pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers more effectively and efficiently with a Shielded Sprayer for Grasshopper zero-turn mowers. The patented design contains the spray pattern for on-target application, even in windy conditions. And the independent suspension and dolly wheels follow ground contours for precise and even spray application. Each spray chamber features 4 spray nozzles that provide uniform coverage by applying finer spray droplets that coat vegetation instead of dousing it. Zero-turn maneuverability eliminates wasted motion, spraying up to 5.5 acres per tank with fewer chemicals, faster application times and faster drying times, while keeping chemicals away from the operator and non-target areas.

Grasshopper



John Deere HD200 and HD300

The HD200 and HD300 offer the ultimate in flexibility, with a choice of centrifugal or diaphragm pumps, manual or automatic rate controls, and boom options that come standard with an electro-hydraulic lift. More versatile than a single-purpose sprayer, no tools are needed for tank removal, and storage stands allow the operator to get more out of the vehicle, even when not spraying. The optional CleanLoad chemical agitator makes it easy to load chemicals by ensuring that every last drop is used, and a powerful jet agitator makes sure the tank solution is mixed thoroughly. An efficient valve bank design simplifies operation and plumbing, while standard triple nozzle bodies make nozzle changes effortless. Controls are mounted at the operator's fingertips and can be removed without tools for storage. Durable 11-gauge booms feature bi-directional breakaway to protect the boom. And a common wiring harness makes control system changes a breeze.

John Deere



Shindaiwa's SP45BPE backpack sprayer

Shindaiwa's new SP45BPE backpack sprayer, with 4.5-gallon capacity, covers more ground with commercial-duty power and lasting performance in an easy-to-carry sprayer unit. A 90-psi large-diameter piston pump allows for quick pressure and less pumping. All critical seals are made of chemically resistant Viton material, providing durability and allowing for extended use of harsh chemicals. A 4-stage filter extends the life of the sprayer, and UV inhibitors allow protection from sun exposure. The unit comes with 3 nozzles: a brass adjustable, a fixed fan, and a fixed cone. The Euro-style tank is marked in both gallons and liters with true capacities allowing room for chemicals. The SP45BPE has extra padding for back and waist support with a waist/chest strap and a back pad. It requires no tools to assemble and the comfort grip handle features a shut-off with lock on and lock off. It also carries a 2-year commercial warranty.

Shindaiwa



Stihl SG 20

The Stihl SG 20 is a comfortable and lightweight manual backpack sprayer that helps users get through the day with less fatigue and helps ensure constant working pressure, thanks to a pressurized fluid reservoir separate from the main tank. Now users can maintain constant pressure, even through refills. When working with compounds such as pesticides and herbicides, accuracy and control are top priorities. The SG 20 features 18-liter tank capacity, 40 psi (+/- 10%) working pressure, and 11.2-pound weight without liquid.

Stihl



TurfEx introduces line of skid-mounted spot sprayers

TurfEx introduces its line of skid-mounted spot sprayers. Designed to mount into the bed of any utility vehicle or pickup, the new spot sprayers are ideal for weed spraying, turf maintenance, tree and flower watering, and pest control applications. Two TurfEx spot sprayers are currently available with a 50-gallon tank and a 100-gallon tank. Both units feature fully corrosion-resistant polyethylene tank construction, 50-foot hoses on 100-foot capacity manual-rewind hose reels, and long spray wands with trigger actuation. Featuring 12-volt diaphragm pumps, the sprayers conveniently connect to the carrying vehicle's electrical system for operation. The pumps move liquid at a rate of 5 gallons per minute at 40 psi.

TurfEx



Game Changer



Game Changer is infield conditioner plus surfactant

Southern Athletic Fields has introduced Game Changer, with KT3 technology that delivers a premium surfactant blend to your infield mix, promoting faster infiltration of applied water or rainfall. This one product means you don't have to make additional applications with sprays or injectable products; rather it is included in your normal application of your conditioner. Independent third party research has proved the ability of the Game Changer to deliver the surfactant blend to the infield mix profile. In the research, the addition of the surfactant blend improved the infiltration of applied water by 50% (half the time required to soak up the same amount of water).

Southern Athletic Fields

Sidekick: STMA 2012 Innovative Award winner

We designed the Sidekick as an attachment to our sod installation machines so as not to require an additional machine on the job site. We needed it to be powerful and compact, mobile, and easy to operate and not require an additional operator. We also needed it to not damage the existing grade and more importantly, to the sod being installed. That meant it could not touch the grass. This was accomplished instead by using the ground force to keep the pushing edge completely square with the edge of the sod. By using the Sidekick we can install thick cut sod on an athletic field in a fraction of the time as before and the results are outstanding. We are compressing the sod as we install it by approximately 5%, eliminating seams and actually improving the quality of the sod.

Green Source, Inc.

Turf Teq Power Rake

The Turf Teq Power Rake is the perfect tool for all types of seedbed preparation and turf renovation. The unit features a 36 inch wide drum. The pivot angle of the drum can be adjusted to the left or right from the operator position. The unit also features a hydrostatic transmission, 13 horsepower Honda® engine and on-the-go differential lock. The Power Rake has a multi use tractor that can easily be converted to a walk behind Power Broom, Power Edger, Brush Cutter and Plow.

Turf Teq

TH300 - portable soil moisture probe

The new TH300 is a fast, accurate and completely portable soil moisture probe. Based on TH2O, Theta probe technology, the TH300 uses the SM150 soil moisture sensors. Results are in water by volume ($\pm 2.5\%$). The HH2 readout stores over 1000 data points, which can be downloaded to a PC and imported into spreadsheets. The SM300 minimizes soil disturbance, preserving the original soil structure around the measurement rods. It is easy to insert and install whether at the soil surface or at depth. The SM300 is a dual-purpose probe; it can be used both with the HH2 hand-held Moisture Meter for instant moisture readings, or left in situ for data logging of moisture and temperature.

Dynamax, Inc.

New 72-volt, AC-powered Cushman Hauler turf utility vehicles

Cushman has introduced the fully electric Cushman Hauler with a 72-volt AC drivetrain that provides the range and power once exclusive to gas-powered machines in a silent, zero-emissions vehicle. The new machine offers up to 50 miles of range between charges. The patented AC Drive technology is up to 25% more energy-efficient than DC technology, and also provides for unique features such as regenerative braking that recharges the batteries whenever the vehicle's brakes are applied and also speed control to maintain constant speeds up and down steep slopes. An optional limited-slip differential provides for greatly improved traction on wet or loose turf, while helping to protect turf from damage due to wheel slippage. The Hauler will feature a maximum load capacity of 1,000 pounds and come standard with a 9.5-cubic-foot cargo bed. A 14.9-cubic-foot aluminum cargo bed will be available as a factory-installed option for facilities that require more cargo space.

Jacobsen unveils new large-area reel mower

The Jacobsen LF510 five-gang reel mower features a 100-inch width-of-cut, five-inch TrueSet cutting units and a Tier 4 final Kubota diesel engine. The mower also offers a host of simplified maintenance features including wet parking brakes, an on-board control module and easily-accessible service items. The LF510 large-area reel mower will come standard with Jacobsen's new TrueSet™ cutting units, first introduced in 2012. TrueSet cutting units are fast and easy to adjust while providing industry-leading holding power to deliver Jacobsen's clean and consistent quality-of-cut through the life of the cutting unit. The company also offers the five-gang LF550/LF570™ with 100-inch width of cut; the five-gang super lightweight SLF-1880™ that offers an 82" width of cut and the LF-4677™ a seven-gang fairway mower that offers a massive 139" width-of-cut.

Jacobsen

Profile Products Introduces CoverGrow mulch pellets

New CoverGrow Spread or Spray advanced pellet technology introduced by Profile Products offers unmatched on-the-ground performance compared to other leading pellets. CoverGrow can be applied by hand or spreader, or sprayed hydraulically. CoverGrow mixes easily, even in jet-agitated hydroseeders where it goes quickly into suspension. It is also designed to provide a smoother flow for easy spreader application. Once activated by water, the pellets quickly expand in size and disperse to provide greater coverage and a stronger protective cover. A 40-pound bag of CoverGrow yields 50 pounds of coverage. Made from recycled wood and cellulose fibers, CoverGrow pellets also feature an advanced tackifier technology that helps resist rainfall impact and keep the pellets in place.

PROFILE Products LLC

NewRider 1700 HPA high pressure airless ride-on field striping machine

Newstripe Inc. is proud to announce the introduction of the NewRider 1700 HPA high pressure airless ride-on athletic field striping machine. The NewRider 1700 will save time and money. The 25 gallon paint tank will stripe up to four soccer fields with one filling. Plus, it's American made paint pump can be adjusted from 0-3000 psi. Consequently, the paint is sprayed at exactly the right pressure reducing the amount of paint used. You paint "just the turf" and "not the dirt." The on-board purge tank eliminates any clogging of spray tips and makes clean-up a snap. The NewRider HPA 1700 also features a hydrostatic drive and a 10.5 hp Briggs and Stratton OHC engine with electric start.

Newstripe



Novo converts any multi-wire controller to two-wire

Novo, a compact two-wire converter from Underhill International, is designed to quickly transform any standard multi-wire controller to two-wire operation by using a "plug and play" feature. Controllers such as Hunter, Rain Bird, Irritrol, Toro, and other popular brands, can be converted to total two-wire or hybrid two-wire / multi-wire systems when connected to Novo. The new Underhill converter is a practical solution for irrigation installers who plan to utilize two-wire technology in a new installation or a system expansion because they can still use their favorite controller. Novo installs alongside the host controller and handles up to 32 two-wire stations. The host multi-wire controller continues to run all scheduling programs and "talks" to the new two-wire valves and decoders via the Novo converter.

Underhill



Bayer Specticle G granule herbicide

Environmental Science has launched Bayer Specticle G, a versatile, pre-emergent herbicide that provides green industry professionals up to 6 months of broad-spectrum weed control for use in landscapes, including mulched areas and around ornamentals, and in warm-season turf. Bayer Specticle G protects against a broad spectrum of more than 80 grassy and broadleaf weeds, as well as annual sedges. The product requires up to 40 times less active ingredient than current standards, resulting in significantly less herbicide placed in the environment. In addition, unlike other pre-emergent herbicides, the applicator-friendly formulation will not stain or leave any odor behind after treatment.

Bayer Environmental Science



STMA Affiliated Chapters Contact Information

Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona: www.azstma.org

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association: www.cstma.org

Florida #1 Chapter (South):
305-235-5101 (Bruce Bates) or Tom Curran
CTomSell@aol.com

Florida #2 Chapter (North): 850-580-4026,
John Mascaro, john@turf-tec.com

Florida #3 Chapter (Central): 407-518-2347,
Scott Grace, scott@sundome.org

Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association: www.gatewaystma.org

Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association: www.gstma.org

Greater L.A. Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: www.stmalabasin.com

Illinois Chapter STMA: www.ILSTMA.org

Intermountain Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: www.imstma.org

Indiana -FORMING - Contact Clayton Dame, Claytondame@hotmail.com or Brian Bornino, bornino@purdue.edu

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association: www.iowaturfgrass.org

Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association: www.kystma.org

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Org. (KAFMO/STMA): www.kafmo.org

Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MISTMA): www.mistma.org

Minnesota Park and Sports Turf Managers Association: www.mpstma.org

MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association: www.mokanstma.com

Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association: sphillips4@unlnotes.unl.edu

New England STMA (NESTMA): www.nestma.org

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey: www.sfmanj.org

Sports Turf Managers of New York: www.stmony.org

North Carolina Chapter of STMA: www.ncsportsturf.org

Northern California STMA: www.norcalstma.org

Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA): www.ostma.org

Oklahoma Chapter STMA: 405-744-5729;
Contact: Dr. Justin Moss okstma@gmail.com

Oregon STMA Chapter: www.oregonsportsturfmanagers.org
oregonstma@gmail.com

Ozarks STMA: www.ozarksstma.org

Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association: www.pnwstma.org

Southern California Chapter: www.socalstma.com

South Carolina Chapter of STMA: www.scstma.org

Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA): www.tvstma.com

Texas Sports Turf Managers Association: www.txstma.org

Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association: www.vstma.org

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association: www.wstma.org

Chapter Sponsors



Conference attendee and exhibitor survey results

AS MANY SPORTSTURF READERS ARE AWARE, the Sports Turf Managers Association's 24th Annual Conference and Exhibition was held January 15-18, 2013 in Daytona Beach, FL and featured a number of milestones for the association, including a significant increase in the number of educational sessions offered, as well as the wider implementation of new web-based offerings and a nearly sold-out trade show. Approximately 981 sports turf managers, from high schools and parks districts to Major League Baseball and NFL groundskeepers, converged on the Ocean Center Convention facility for more than 90 hours of sports turf specific education, dedicated networking functions and exhibitor demonstrations.

The week's events were capped off by STMA's Annual Awards Banquet on Friday evening, where the association's highest honors were presented. These included the association's premier honors, the STMA Founders Awards, as well as the Field of the Year Awards, SAFE Scholarships, STMA Commercial Innovative Award, President's Award for Leadership, Student Challenge trophies and more.

Additionally, STMA's non-profit charitable foundation, Foundation for Safer Athletic Fields for Everyone (SAFE) used its 13th Annual Golf Tournament, played at Arthur Hills Golf Course at LPGA International, Casino Night at the Welcome Reception and the live auctions, raffles and other fundraising endeavors to raise more than \$35,000 for the foundation.

The conference drew 35 international attendees from Argentina, Canada, Chile, Israel, Jamaica, Mexico, Spain, England, and Scotland. This international representation is the most STMA has had at any prior conference (with the normal amount being 10-12).

Following the conference, STMA sent out two surveys: one for attendees and one for exhibitors. The results below are a snapshot of some of those results.

Of the several hundred **attendees** that responded to STMA's survey:

- 98.1 percent rated their overall conference experience as "excellent" or "good" with 1.9 percent rating their experience as "fair" and 0 percent rating "poor".
- 93.9 percent rated their overall expo experience as "excellent" or "good" with 5 percent rating their experience as "fair" and 0 percent rating "poor".
- 96.8 percent rated their overall education session experience as "excellent" or "good" with 3.2 percent rating "fair" and 0 percent rating "poor".

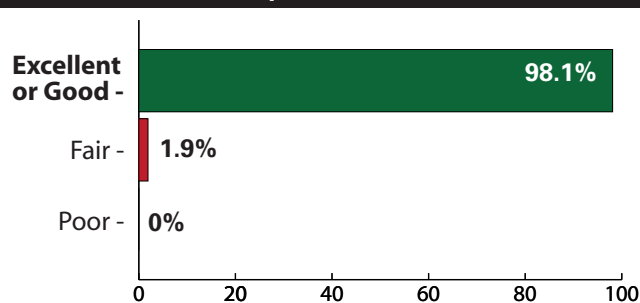
Quotes (unattributed) to place next to data:

- "This is one of the most well organized and professionally managed conferences I attend."
- "Really like the variety of choices in topics and things to do, just hard to get to all of them at the same time."
- "Better each year - good to reorder things."
- "Very kind and professional people, an excellent trade show."
- "Keep up the good work. I feel the conference has continued to get better each year. Thank you for the experience."
- "It was my first conference and I really enjoyed it."
- "I think it is a great show dedicated to sports turf."

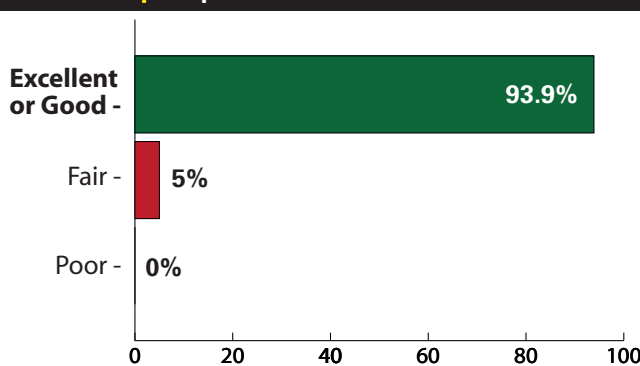
Of the several hundred **exhibitors** that responded to STMA's survey:

- 84.4 percent thought that the 24th Annual Exhibition was a good show overall, while 15.6 did not.
- 73.3 percent thought the exhibition "was the best show they'd ever attended" or "a good show worth attending", while 26.6 thought the "show needed improvement" or "wouldn't recommend it."

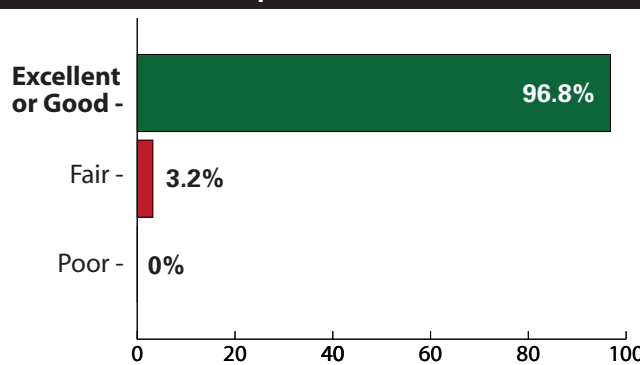
Attendees conference experience



Attendees expo experience



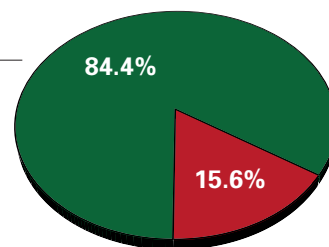
Attendees education experience



Exhibitors experience

84.4%

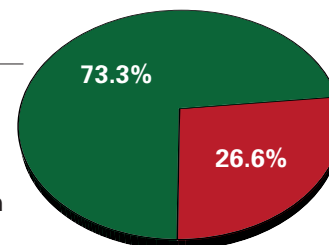
Thought that the 24th Annual Exhibition was a **good show overall**



Exhibitors experience

73.3%

Thought that the 24th Annual Exhibition **"was the best show they'd ever attended" or "a good show worth attending."**



SAFE in 2013: a new year for Safer Athletic Fields (for Everyone)

STMA'S CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION, The Foundation for Safer Athletic Fields (SAFE), was formed in 2001. It began awarding scholarships in 2003 and has funded a number of scholarships and educational programs since then, totaling more than \$250,000.

In 2010 however, the Board of Trustees, after having conducted extensive strategic planning and research, concluded that SAFE could do more than award scholarships. It implemented a number of changes to its outreach efforts, including: changing its mission to focus on external matters relevant to the industry ("to enrich communities through championing safe, sustainable sports and recreation fields for all athletes"); officially changing its name to The Foundation for Safer Athletic Fields for Everyone; changing its by-

laws; adding new board members; creating both a strategic plan and marketing plan; and developing the "Grass Roots Initiative" fundraising program to engage STMA members and leverage their support.

In 2013, SAFE continues to move forward. As announced at STMA's Conference and Exhibition in Daytona Beach, MLB's Baseball Tomorrow Fund Executive Director, Cathy Bradley, has been named chairperson of SAFE's Board of Trustees. Also this year, SAFE plans the launch of an all-new website and social media initiatives that will help further engage and educate members.

As many STMA members are aware, SAFE conducts a variety of fundraising activities during the STMA Conference. It raised more than \$35,000 this year in Daytona Beach from

the golf tournament, silent and live auctions, raffles and the second annual successful casino night; this is \$8,000 more raised than the previous year.

As SAFE and the Grass Roots Initiative looks to the future, it will be very active in outreach and continue to innovate in the awarding of scholarships, funding of educational programs, creating partnerships with various stakeholders, performing assessments and engaging STMA chapters and committees. We appreciate your continued support!

For more information on SAFE, how to donate and updates on the launch of the Foundation's new website, SAFEFIELDS.org, please visit stma.org.-Shant S. Thomas, STMA sales & marketing manager

SAFE continues recognizing excellence in sports turf management education

THE SAFE FOUNDATION has been funding scholarships since its inception in 2000. In 2009, it added its first Educational Grant and a second educational grant was added in 2011.

The Gary Vanden Berg Internship Grant honors Gary Vanden Berg, CSFM, for his contributions to the industry in promoting internships. Gary was the Director of Grounds for the Milwaukee Brewers until his death in 2011 and his commitment to creating enriching learning experiences for interns was legendary throughout Major League Baseball and the sports turf industry at large.

This grant is awarded in late fall for an internship completed during the spring or summer of that same year. STMA student members in good standing who are currently enrolled in a minimum of six credit hours, or were enrolled in a minimum of six credit hours in the semester just before the internship, are eligible to submit for the \$1,000 grant. The grant is intended to offset the costs a student may have incurred while interning. In addition to receiving the \$1,000 grant, the winner also receives a full conference registration and three nights lodging at the next STMA National Conference and Exhibition, where he/she will be introduced during the Awards Program.

The 2011 Gary Vanden Berg Internship Grant winner was Aaron Bryant, from the University of Tennessee. Aaron previously interned with the New York Mets and is currently working with the San Diego Padres for a second consecutive season as a seasonal assistant. He graduated from the University of Tennessee in 2011.

"The Gary Vanden Berg Grant helped me tremendously in offsetting costs associated with expenses accrued over the course of my internship in New York City," Aaron said. "It was a privilege to be honored for an award named after one of the leading professionals in our industry. I hope to one day be an instrumental part of giving back to an association that has done so much for me. Namely, I want to incorporate interns into my management strategy as I look for ways to help future generations of sports turf managers. The networking, internship/job, and learning opportunities are incomparable and pivotal as part of being a member of the Sports Turf Managers Association."

The 2012 Gary Vanden Berg Internship Grant winner was Nik Wooldridge, from Colorado State University. Nik interned at Fenway Park with the Boston Red Sox and was also the recipient of the Dr. James Watson Undergraduate Scholarship for 2012.

The STMA Scholarship Committee selects the Terry Mellor and Gary Vanden Berg grant winners.

SAFE is currently seeking long-term funding for the Gary Vanden Berg Internship Grant. To donate please send payments to: The SAFE Foundation, P.O. Box 411172, Kansas City, MO 64141-1172. The SAFE Foundation Federal Tax ID# is 47-0839745. SAFE is a Charitable 501(c)(3) Corporation. Donations are tax deductible as allowable by law.

STMA's ongoing social media conversation

"SOCIAL MEDIA IS KILLING THE ART OF THE CONVERSATION."

I disagree. As STMA's new sales and marketing manager, my job is to ensure we are continually improving on our conversational skills—be it throughout the year in communicating our association's value and benefits to our membership or relaying the latest news on our ever-changing industry.

Many have heralded conversation's "end" because of social media's inherent ephemeral nature, but my belief is that a targeted mix of relevant social media tools helps us *enable* and *enhance* it. To that end, we will be expanding STMA's efforts throughout the year on both Facebook and Twitter with more frequent posts.

The benefit STMA has over some of our larger peer associations is the existing real world connectedness our members have with their peers throughout the United States. My belief is that any social media effort we may hope to undertake highlights those friendships/connections—rather than creating artificial ones—and radiates out to those who might be thinking of joining. It is this congeniality that I experienced for the first time at our conference in Daytona Beach which I believe distinguishes and differentiates us in the marketplace.

On the socialmediatoday blog, Jeremy Brown puts forward his "C2 theory" that stipulates all social media should be more than just a "connection" (a one-way street)...it should be about "communication" (a two-way street). Brown says, "Connection is the first step. The first 50 percent. Conversation is the second step. The second 50 percent."

- They're reciprocal. One cannot exist without the other.
- Connection means first contact. Conversation means further contact.
- Connection is the attention getter. Conversation is the sustainability of attention.
- Don't connect and not converse. Don't converse without connecting first.
- Connection means resonance. Conversation means discussion of resonance."

Stay tuned for more of STMA's conversation.-Shant S. Thomas, STMA sales & marketing manager

5 years says a lot

CONGRATULATIONS to the 5-year members of STMA! They joined in 2008, the year considered by many economists to be the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Through their strong allegiance to STMA, they continued to fund their memberships through the global recession, which continued through 2012. We thank these mem-

bers and the entire membership for supporting the association during these challenging economic times.

Members will be receiving their service pins this month. In addition to recognizing 5 years of membership, STMA awards 10, 15, 20 and 25-year pins.

Last Name	First Name	Designation	Member Organization Name	City	State/Territory	Country
Albright	Eric		Midland High School	Midland	MI	
Anderson	Blake		The Westminster Schools	Atlanta	GA	
Bailey	Ed		Coastal Carolina University	Conway	SC	
Bajno	Mark		Buffalo Grove Park District	Buffalo Grove	IL	
Barnaby	Patrick			Milwaukee	WI	
Bauer	Perry		Midwest Athletic Fields	Watertown	WI	
Behr	Robert		Ashley Ridge High School	Summerville	SC	
Beights	Todd		City of San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	CA	
Berge	Kim		City of Saskatoon	Saskatoon	SK	Canada
Burgess	Greg		Greenville Drive	Greenville	SC	
Calhoon	Kyle		New York Yankees	Secaucus	NJ	
Cathey	Neil		Uintah Recreation District	Vernal	UT	
Cheswick	Peter		Massapequa School District	Massapequa	NY	
Coe	Walter		"Sportsedge, A Div of ABT, Inc."	Monroe	NC	
Conlon	Patrick		Sportsgraphics	Clarion	IA	
Crescen	Joseph		Downingtown School District	E Fallowfield	PA	
Defeo	Anthony		Lancaster Barnstormers / Brickman Sports Turf	Lancaster	PA	
Delloiacono	Al		"Chief Equipment, Inc."	Freeport	NY	
Dexter	Eric		City of Roseville	Roseville	CA	
Diemer	Dan		City of Arcata	Arcata	CA	
Dierdorff	Matthew		Roger Dean Stadium	Jupiter	FL	
DiPasquale	Michael		Bryant University	East Providence	RI	
Edwards	Derek		Hammons Field-Springfield Cardinals	Springfield	MO	
Eggerman	Matthew		Roger Dean Stadium	Jupiter	FL	
Elmer	Josh		Basin Recreation	Park City	UT	
Emory	Doug		City of Raleigh Parks & Rec	Raleigh	NC	
Escalera	Patrick		Phillips Ranch		CA	
Fagan	Edward		McKeesport Area School District	McKeesport	PA	
Fick	Daniel		"Profile Products, LLC/Turfce"	Virginville	PA	
Fitch	Jon		"Shive-Hattery, Inc."	Cedar Rapids	IA	
Flynn	Andy		Michigan State University	Williamston	MI	
Geary	Richard		Harper College	Palatine	IL	
Geiger	Mike		Daytona Cubs	Daytona Beach	FL	
Gerking	Joey		Purdue University	West Lafayette	IN	
Gialloredo	Nicholas		Walker Supply Inc.	Coraopolis	PA	
Giraud	John		Target Technologies	Burnaby	BC	Canada
Gish	James		Brigham Young University	Provo	UT	
Gonzales	Mike		City of Surprise	Surprise	AZ	
Graham	Josh			Minneapolis	MN	
Graydon	Jeffrey		Princeton University	Princeton	NJ	
Griffith	William		Walla Walla Community College	Walla Walla	WA	
Groenevelt	Ross		Salem Red Sox	Salem	VA	
Harris	Wanda	"APRP, CPSI"	City of Boca Raton - Patch Reef Park	Boca Raton	FL	
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Hawes	Chris				AZ	
Heldt	Steve		City of Hillsboro Parks Maintenance	Hillsboro	OR	
Hendricks	Jeff		City of San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	CA	
Heren	Scott		Providence Catholic High School	New Lenox	IL	
Hewitt	Chuck		City of Powell Parks Dept	Powell	WY	
Hill	Michael		Specialty Turf Supply	Birmingham	AL	
Hill	Brett		"A-G Sod Farms, Inc."	Temecula	CA	
Hinojosa	Israel III		Houston Astros Baseball Club	Houston	TX	
Hisler	Ken		City of Raleigh Parks & Rec	Raleigh	NC	
Hood	Robert		City of Virginia Beach Parks & Rec	Virginia Beach	VA	
Hopkins	Bryan	Ph.D.	Brigham Young University	Provo	UT	
Howe	Tim		Streamwood Park District	Streamwood	IL	
Huffington	Gabe		City of Columbia Parks & Rec	Columbia	MO	
Hughes	Darold		Colorado College	Colorado Springs	CO	
Humphry	Byron		City of Fayetteville Parks & Rec	Fayetteville	AR	
Johnson	Jamie		Linn Mar Comm School District	Springville	IA	

Last Name	First Name	Designation	Member Organization Name	City	State/Territory	Country
Keever	Travis		Limestone College	Gaffney	SC	
Kennington	Bob		Winnipeg Football Club	Winnipeg	MB	Canada
King	Jerry		Dakota Valley School District	N Sioux City	SD	
Labitska	Keith			St Louis	MO	
Lamb	Peter		Antrim Parks & Rec	Antrim	NH	
Lang	George		Clark Companies	Delhi	NY	
Larson	Jonathan		Salt River Fields at Talking Stick	Scottsdale	AZ	
Loesche	Eric		Sprinturf	King Of Prussia	PA	
Lucas	Joe		City of Liberty-Fountain Bluff Sports Complex	Liberty	MO	
Males	Jerry		South Fayette Township	Morgan	PA	
Mayden	Russ		Carrollton Rec Park	Carrollton	MO	
McCarthy	Brendan		Salisbury University	Salisbury	MD	
McGinley	Daniel		Trenton Thunder	Norristown	PA	
McHenry	Jim		"Oakwood Sod Farm, Inc."	Delmar	MD	
McQuillen	Troy		Kirkwood Community College	Cedar Rapids	IA	
Meyers	Collin		New York Jets	Florham Park	NJ	
Mihailides	David		"Kochek Company, Inc."	Putnam	CT	
Miller	Robbie		Providence Day School	Charlotte	NC	
Millett	Steve		Hummert International	Earth City	MO	
Moore	Michael		City of Virginia Beach Parks & Rec	Virginia Beach	VA	
Moore	Kevin		"Colony Landscape & Maintenance, Inc."	Alviso	CA	
Moore	Shawn			Albuquerque	NM	
Moore	Matt		TMT Enterprises	San Jose	CA	
Morris	Don		Covenant College	Look Out Mnt	GA	
Moss	Justin		Oklahoma State University	Stillwater	OK	
Moyer	Allison		Collegiate School	Richmond	VA	
Mynter	Doug		Ballard Sports	Cary	NC	
Neu	Jim		"All Star Athletic Fields, LLC"	Columbus Grove	OH	
Nichols	Kenny		Westerville City Schools	Westerville	OH	
O'Brien	Jim		Town of Windsor	Windsor	CA	
O'Brien	Marty		Peoria Park District	Peoria	AZ	
Oldiges	Craig		MAC Athletics	Minster	OH	
Parent	Paul		H&K Sports Fields	Egg Harbor	WI	
Parrott	Simon		"Colony Landscape & Maintenance, Inc."	Alviso	CA	
Patterson	Mark		Basin Recreation	Park City	UT	
Perea	Chaz			Whittier	CA	
Petersen	Chris		"Tom Irwin, Inc."	Burlington	MA	
Philpotts	Liam		"Fleet US, LLC"	Dakota City	NE	
Pinkerton	Matthew		County College of Morris	Hackettstown	NJ	
Pitts	Michael		"Environmental Landscaping, Inc."	Abbeville	SC	
Procopio	Chris		Ballard Sports	Cary	NC	
Prucha	Mike		Krylon Products Group	Cleveland	OH	
Raposa	Ryan			Tiverton	RI	
Rieker	Joel		Iowa State University	Huxley	IA	
Rolf	Jason		Harrison Central School District	Tuckahoe	NY	
Rush	Dean	CSFM	Pima County NRPR	Tucson	AZ	
Sasakura	Masashi		"Toyo Maintenance Company, Ltd."	"Chuoku,	Tokyo"	Japan
Schryver	Doug		Sterling Park District	Rock Falls	IL	
Sewell	Dennis		City of Wylie	Wylie	TX	
Shastid	Christopher				FL	
Sidle	Daniel		SMG/Jacksonville Jaguars	Jacksonville	FL	
Simon	Edward		Grand Valley State University	Allendale	MI	
Smith	Ronald	Ph.D.	North Dakota State University	Fargo	ND	
Smith	Cory		Edison High School	Milan	OH	
Speed	Douglas		Douglas Speed & Associates	Ponte Vedra Beach	FL	
Stegman	Michael		Holcomb Recreation Commission	Holcomb	KS	
Suda	David		Fargo Park District	Fargo	ND	
Tamaska	Tommy		Philadelphia Phillies Spring Training Complex	Clearwater	FL	
Tanner	Lester		City of Bowie	Bowie	MD	
Thomas	Daniel		Baltimore Orioles	North Port	FL	
Trafton	Lawrence			Grants Pass	OR	
Viehman	Bruce		City of Greer Recreation Dept	Greer	SC	
Wade	Michael	CSFM	Keene State College	Keene	NH	
Westermeyer	Al		Fargo Park District	Fargo	ND	
Wetzel	Devin		Lee's Summit Parks & Rec	Lee's Summit	MO	
White	Jeffry		Marietta College	Marietta	OH	
Will	Chad		Tenbarge Seed & Turf Supply	Haubstadt	IN	
Williams	Roger		"Performance Sports Fields, Inc."	Lee's Summit	MO	
Wimer	Matthew		"Hummer Turfgrass Systems, Inc."	Manheim	PA	
Yorgey	Jon		Wyomissing Area School District	Wyomissing	PA	



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1 What is your company's primary business? (check ONLY ONE)

- F ☐ Sports Complex G ☐ Athletic Field and/or Park Architect/Designer
T ☐ School, College or University P ☐ Park
H ☐ Other (please specify) _____

2 Which of the following best describes your title? (check ONLY ONE)

- A ☐ EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATOR — President, Owner, Partner, Director, General Manager, Chairman of the Board, Purchasing Agent, Athletic Director
B ☐ MANAGER/SUPERINTENDENT — Superintendent, Landscape/Ground Maintenance Manager, Foreman, Supervisor
C ☐ GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL — Government Commissioner, Agent, Other Government Official
D ☐ SPECIALIST — Architect, Designer, Consultant, Agronomist, Horticulturist, Certified Specialist
F ☐ COACH E ☐ Other (please specify) _____

3 Do you have the authority to buy, specify or recommend products and/or services for your business or organization?

Y ☐ Yes N ☐ No

4 Yearly operating expenditures (excluding salaries)

- F ☐ Over \$1 million C ☐ \$50,001 - \$100,000
E ☐ \$500,001 - \$1 million B ☐ \$25,001 - \$50,000
D ☐ \$100,001 - \$500,000 A ☐ \$25,000 and under

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Q&A



BY DR. DAVID MINNER

Professor, Iowa State University

Questions?

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Ames, IA 50011
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dminner@iastate.edu.

Or, send your
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North Carolina State University,
Box 7620, Raleigh, NC
27695-7620, or email
grady_miller@ncsu.edu.

No man is an island

Several of you have asked what in the heck am I doing down in the Virgin Islands and “How do I get a job like that?”

Well here’s my story that started out turfy and then went to an even better place that has captured my heart. An Iowa State alumni living on St. John wanted advice on building a soccer field for the students at Giffit Hill School that could also be used by the community. You really have to live here to experience just how severely sloped and rocky the terrain is on St. John; flat land is rare and there is no soil as we know it stateside.

It took 4 years to fill a gulch with enough construction rock to make a flat spot suitable for a 22,000 sq. ft. field. The longest road on the 25-square mile island is 12 miles long and nearly impossible to exceed 35 mph because of the sharp turns and steep grades. Water is either desalinated from the sea or collected in cisterns from roof runoff, so irrigation was a major concern when deciding what type of surface to install. To irrigate a grass surface would require approximately \$60,000 in purchased water each year, so in the long run this coupled with the lack of trained personnel and equipment to manage a grass surface, the decision was made to install a synthetic turf. In its fourth year the Field-Turf surface has performed nicely with nearly no maintenance.

The only problem we are having is that the fibrillated white lines are wearing faster than the monofilament green turf. The kids love playing multiple sports on it and the school is proud to have the only synthetic surface in the Virgin Islands. St. Thomas and St. Croix are the two larger islands in the US Virgin Islands and they are faced with the same problem of managing their bermudagrass and hurricane grass with no irrigation. In

the wet season the grass performs nicely but in the dry season fields burn up and are mostly weak grass with some weeds and bare soil. Working with Carlos Robles, University of Virgin Islands extension agent, and Stanley Smith, parks & recreation assistant commissioner, we are testing seashore paspalum as a potential grass for baseball fields that will be irrigated with salt water, and we have plenty of that.

Now for the twist that caught this turf guy a little off guard. After the field project Giffit Hill School collaborated with Iowa State University to develop the Education And Resiliency Through Horticulture or EARTH Program. I am co-director of the EARTH Program and each semester two ISU students spend 15 weeks on the island teaching in both the indoor and outdoor classroom, along with a creative component project of their choosing. It basically follows the design of the “Edible School Yard” concept developed by Alice Waters that started in Berkley, CA.

The Giffit Hill EARTH Program has a garden and kitchen program that teaches sustainable concepts from smaller terraced gardens on the island to large corn fields of Iowa. The concept is to

let students know where food comes from, how to produce and prepare it, and how to feed themselves in a sustainable process. Students in grades 4-12 have been exposed to terrace farming, sheet mulching, composting, chicken tractors, edible landscapes, native plants for food and medicine, organic and commercial farming techniques, community supported agriculture, and how all this impacts the environmental microcosm were they live.

So I came to an island which I thought was a hideaway for the wealthy to get out of the winter, and there is some truth to that because it certainly is tourism that drives the economy and makes it possible for so many to work and live on the island. But the reality is I discovered a community of people—rich, poor and in between—that are dedicated to helping one another. There is hardly a day that goes by that I don’t hitch for a ride or pick up someone that needs a ride or borrow something; it is a throwback to a time when we cared more about helping than hurting and we lived with less fear and isolation. It has plenty of beautiful blue water and white sand beaches, but if you stick around long enough it is the people and their stories that you fall in love with, and that it what happened to me. ■



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